INTO THE NETHER

STEPHANIE RAMIREZ

MOJANG STUDIOS
OFFICIAL PRODUCT

MINECRAFT™
OPEN WORLD

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INTO THE NETHER

BY

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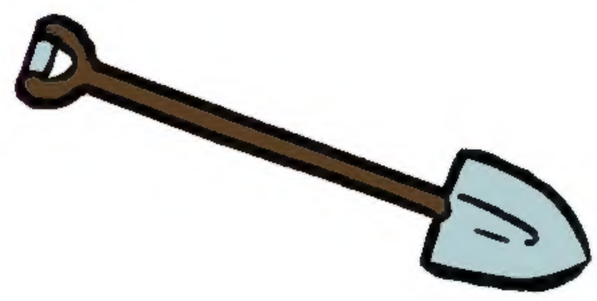

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PANT
PANT
GASP
AH! A FENCE!
OKAY!
OOF!
WHAM
WHAT THE --
I CAN'T GET OVER?
SSSSSSSSSSSSS
THIS IS SO LOW,
I DON'T GET --
SSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS
tap
tap
KABOOM

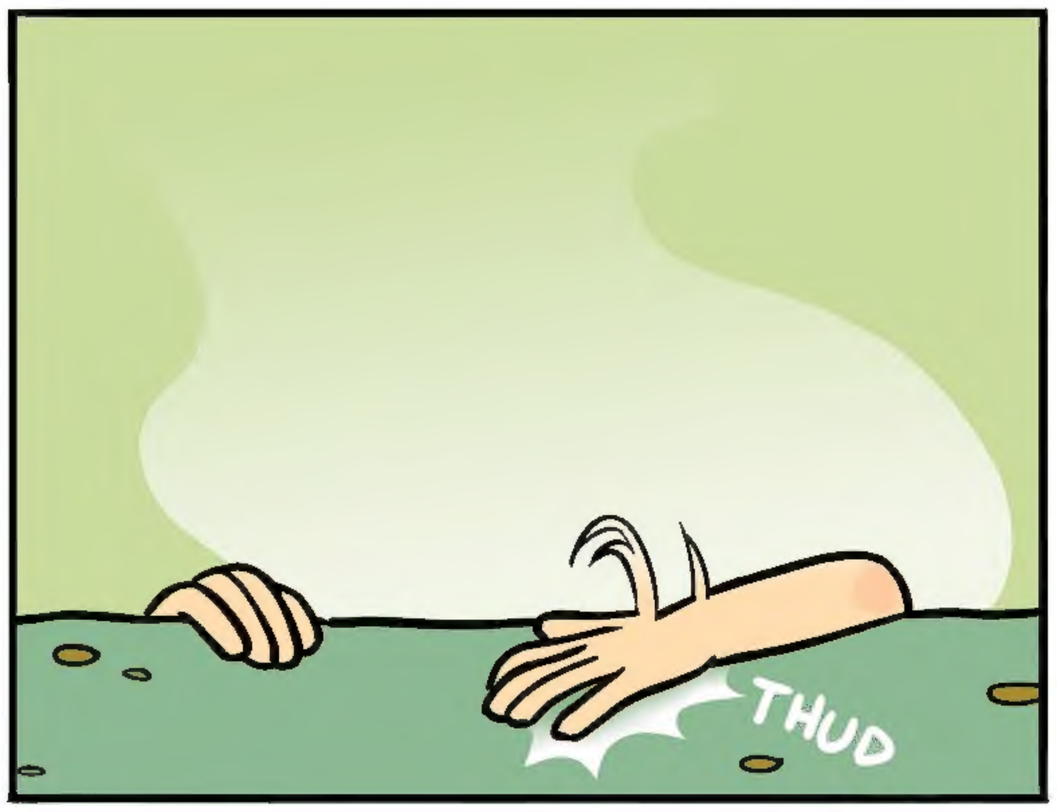
uhhhhh...

AHHH! LAVA! NO!

TSSS!

SPLASH!

PHEW!


THUD

ughhhh....

HELLO, I'M SARAH.
I THINK...
I'M DYING...

YOU BROUGHT THAT CREEPER HERE...

HERE, EAT THIS.
huh?

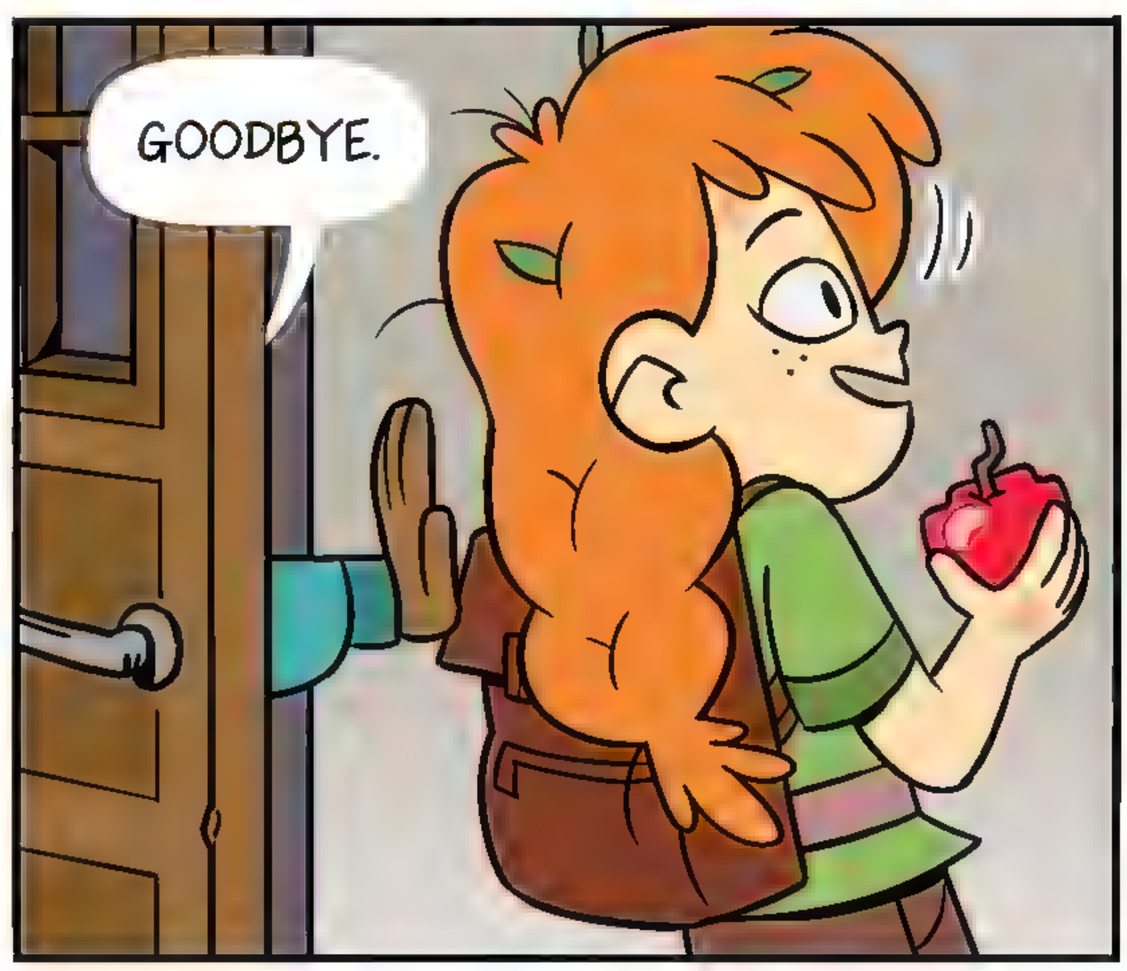
WHOA!

DID YOU BUILD THIS? THIS IS INCREDIBLE!!!

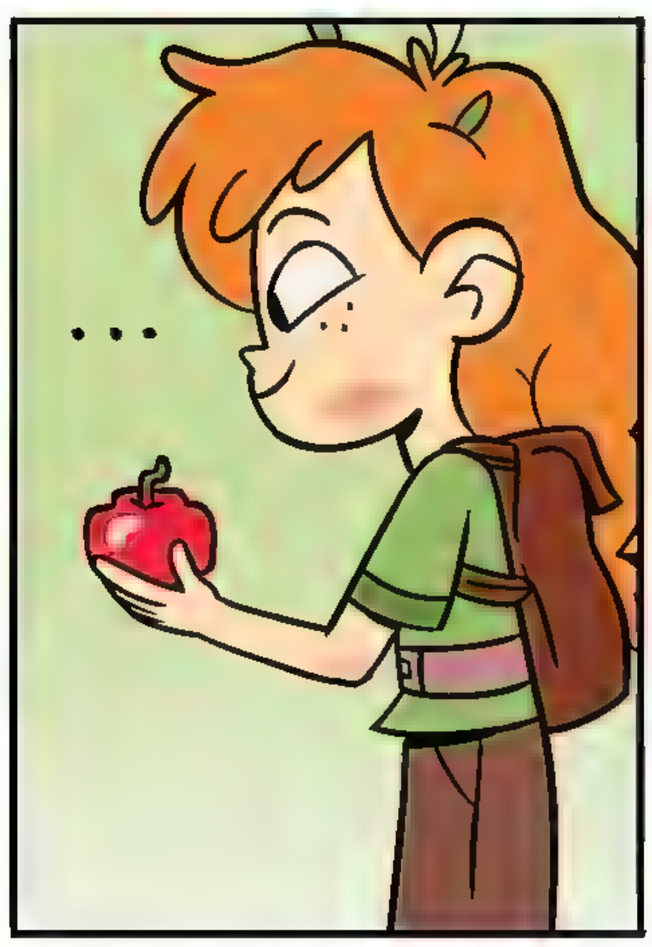
HEY THERE, FLUFFY GUY...

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
AH! I'M SORRY!

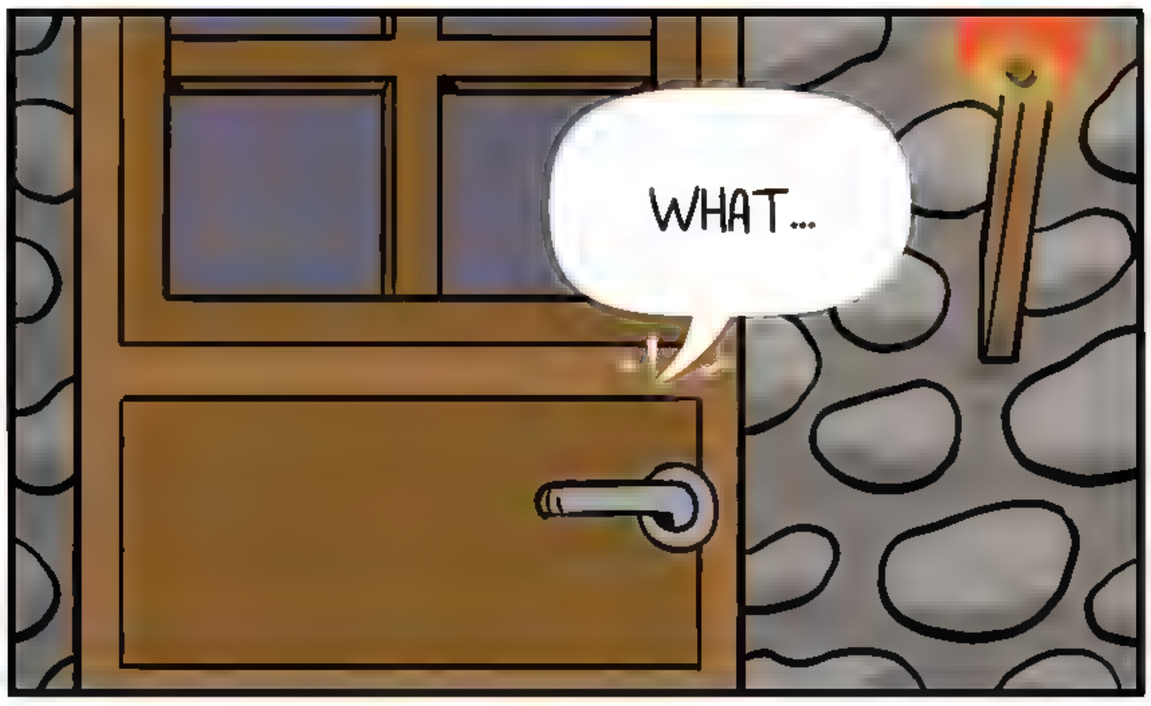
HOW DO YOU PET THINGS IN THIS GAME?
IN THIS GAME, YOU STAY OUT OF PEOPLE'S BASES.


GOODBYE.

THANK YOU FOR THE APPLE!
SLAM!

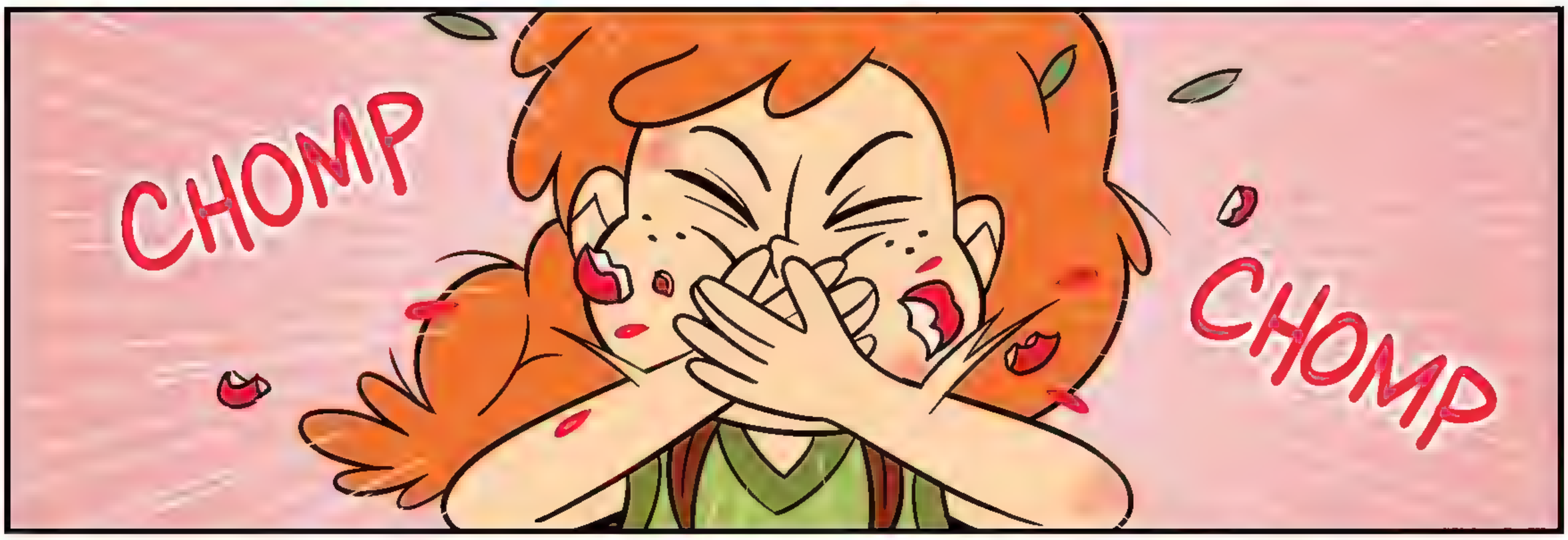

...

HOW DO I EAT IT?

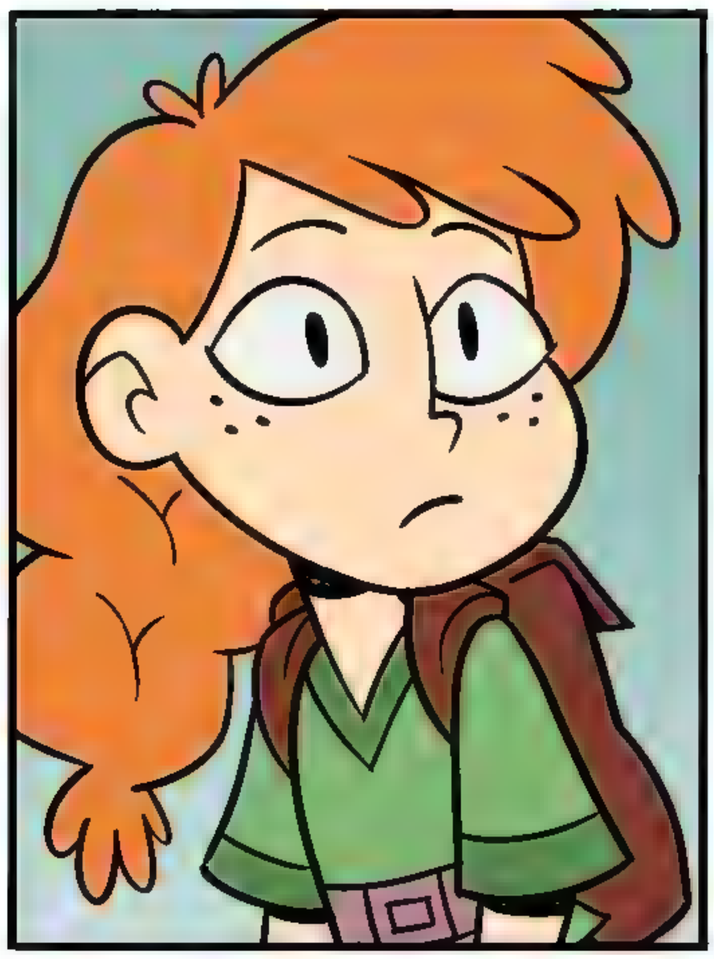

WHAT...

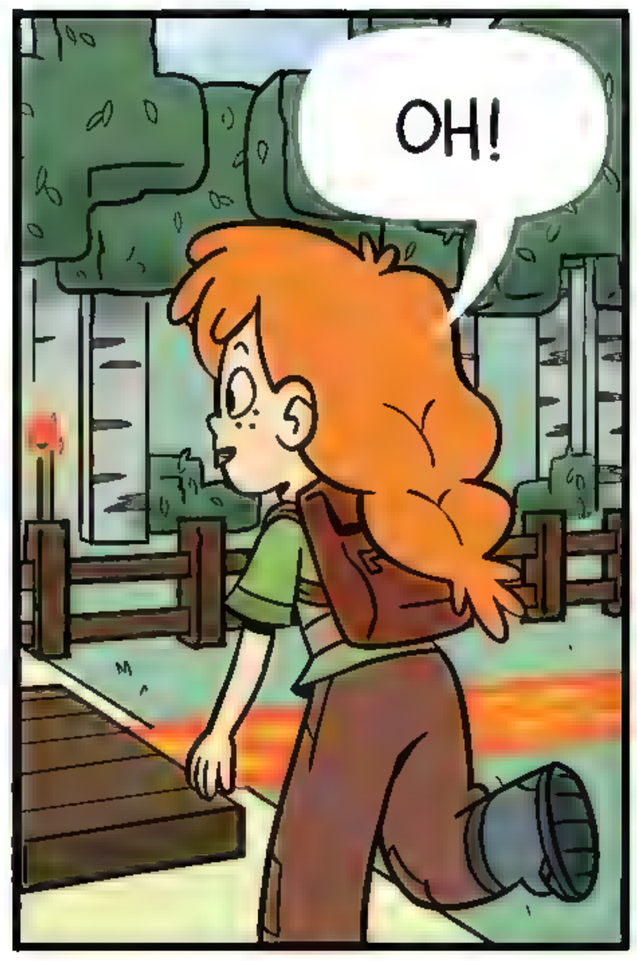
...YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO EAT?

RIGHT CLICK.

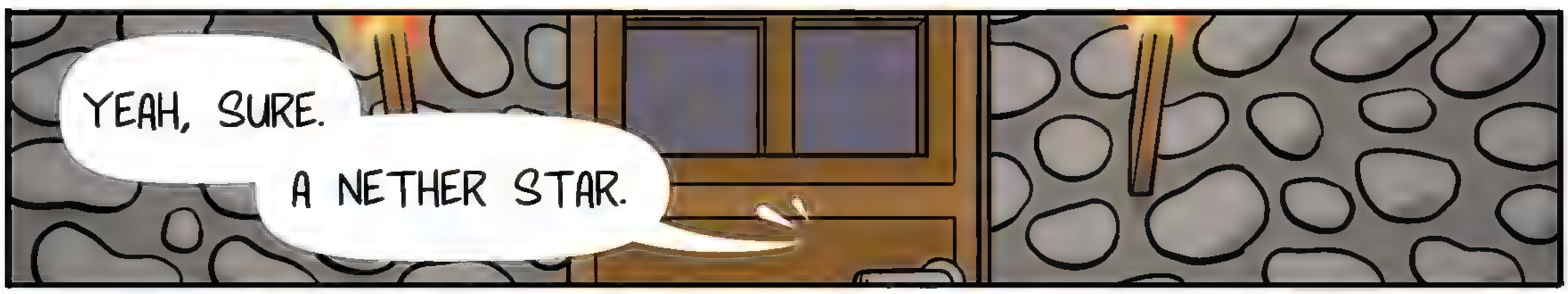

CHOMP
CHOMP

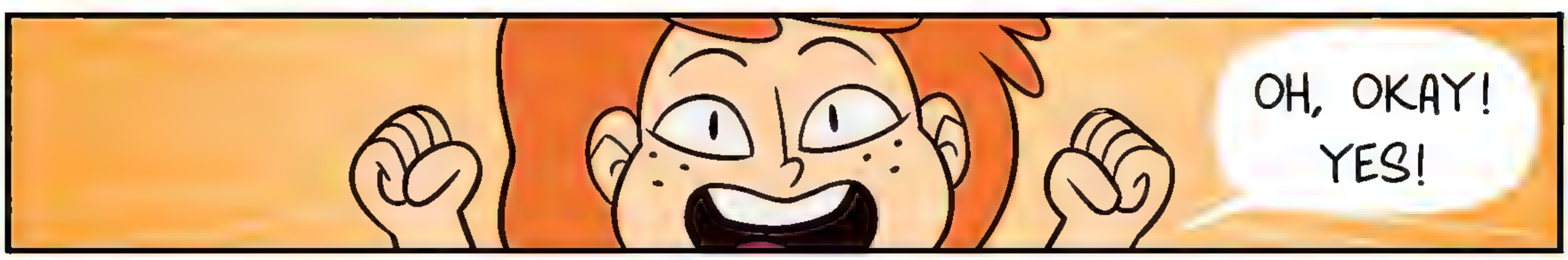
AW HECK YEAH! THANKS!
WHAT WAS YOUR NAME AGAIN?
IT'S HECTOR. BYE.



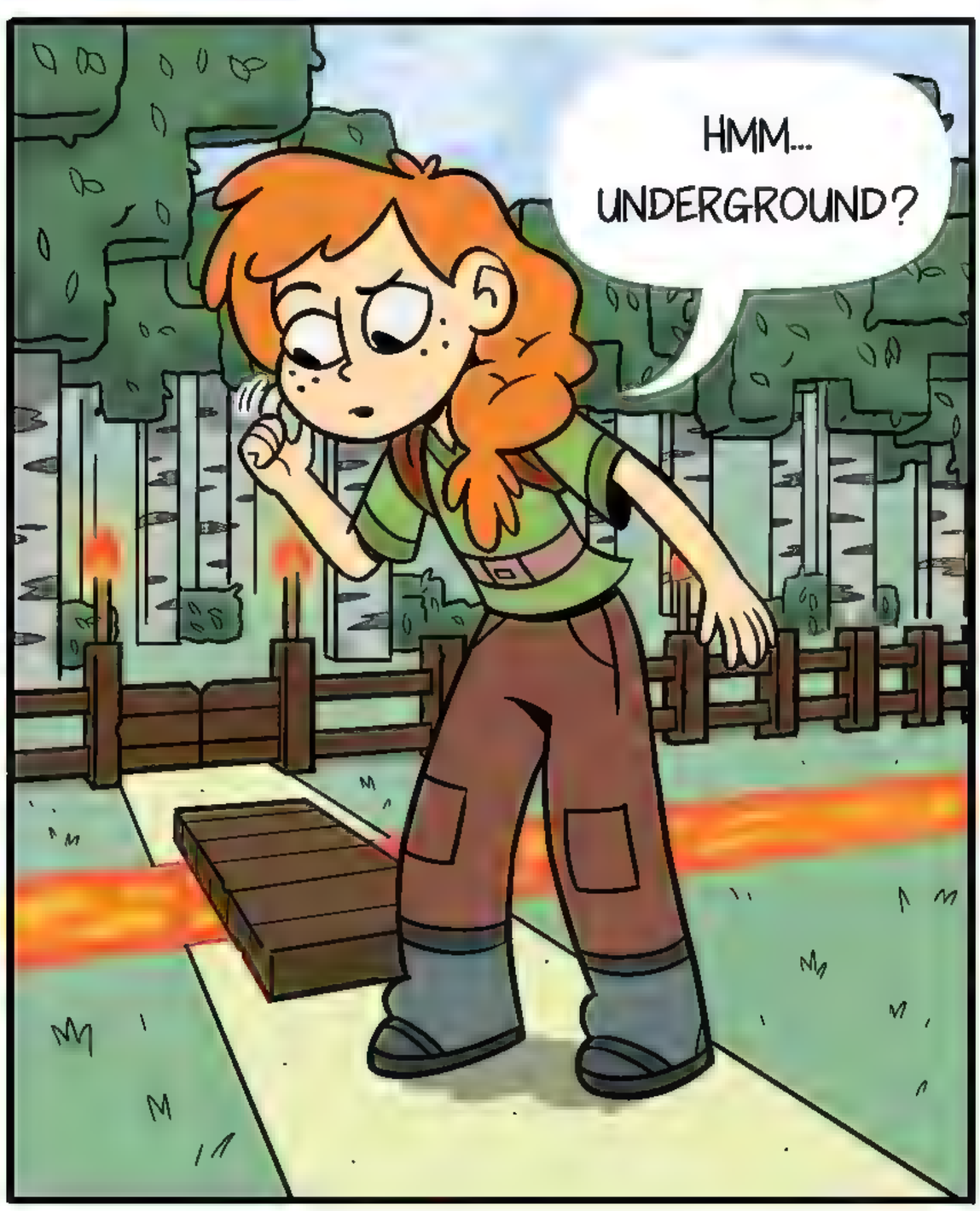

OH!

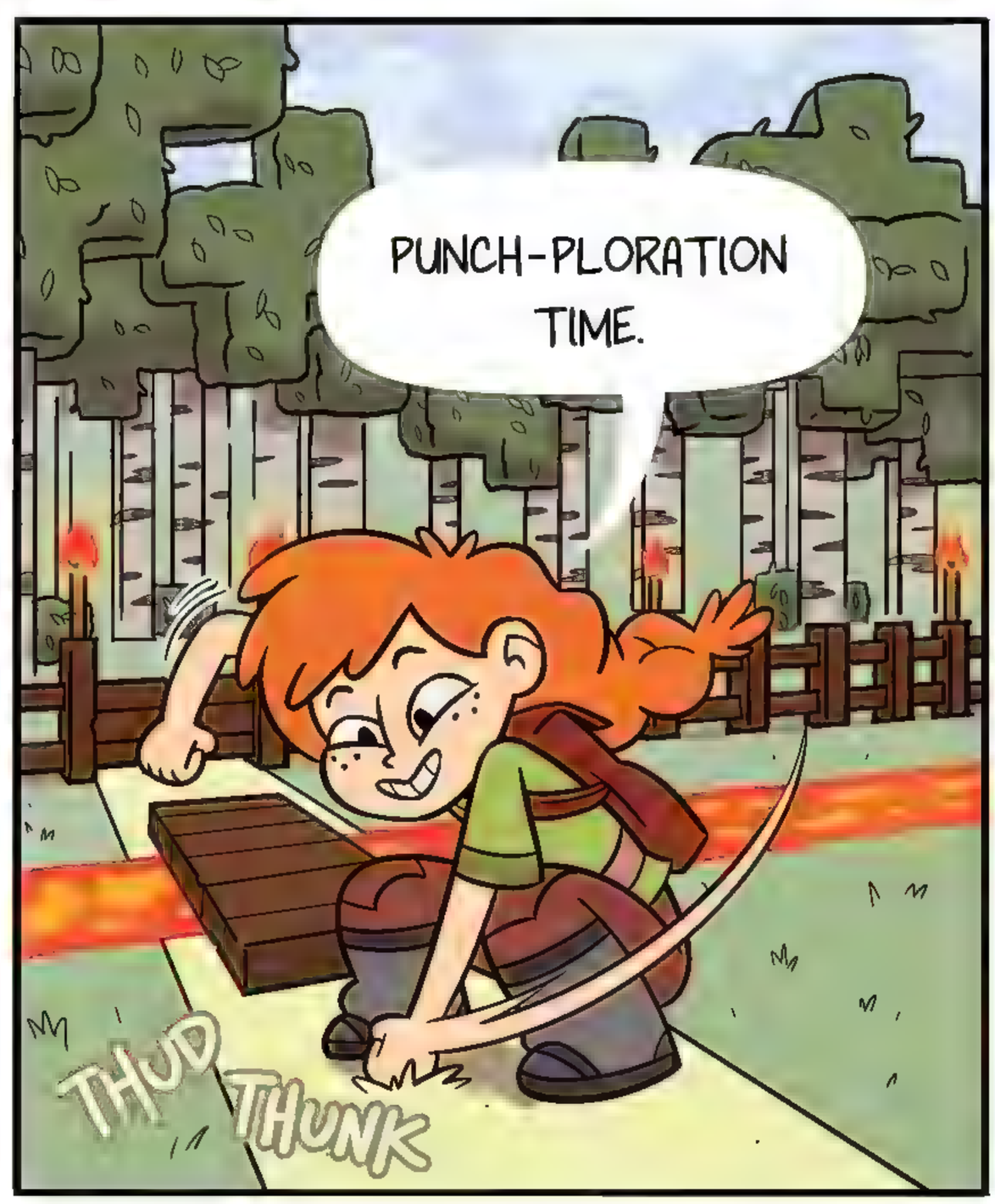
WAIT!
CAN I GET YOU ANYTHING AS A THANK YOU?!


YEAH, SURE.
A NETHER STAR.


OH, OKAY! YES!

LET ME LOOK THAT UP REAL QUICK...
feather star...no. leather star...
defeat a wither...WHERE'S A WITHER???


HMM...
UNDERGROUND?


PUNCH-PLORATION TIME.
THUD
THUNK

THUD
THUNK

WHAT IS SHE DOING??

ARE YOU KIDDING ME? DON'T DO THAT!
WHY?

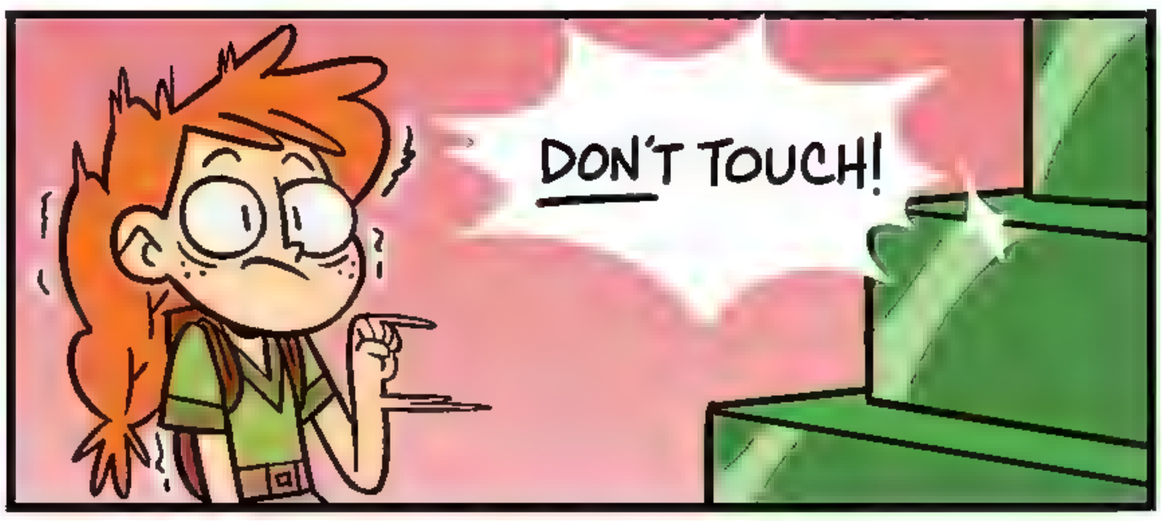
THUD
THUNK
YOU'RE GOING TO GET YOURSELF KILLED. JUST DON'T.
WHY?
THUD

THUNK
SIIIIIIIIGGGGHHHHHH
DO YOU... NEED SOME HELP? DO YOU WANT ME TO TEACH YOU THE BASICS?
THUD
THUNK

YES!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU! MY MOM BOUGHT ME THIS GAME TO MAKE SOME NEW FRIENDS, BUT THERE'S SO MUCH TO DO I'M KIND OF OVERWHELMED!
I'M SO GLAD I MET YOU SINCE YOU KNOW SO MUCH! WOW, YOUR PLACE IS SO COOL!

AFTER YOU TEACH ME, I CAN GET THAT HEATHER STAR AS A THANK YOU!


DON'T TOUCH!

NETHER STAR.
AND, NO, YOU WON'T, I WASN'T SERIOUS, IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO GET.

AND I DON'T NEED ANY FRIENDS.

I'M JUST GOING TO TEACH YOU A FEW RULES SO YOU DON'T KILL YOURSELF. THEN YOU'LL BE ON YOUR WAY AND WON'T BOTHER ME AGAIN.
DEAL?
OKAY JEEZ, DEAL...

RULE ONE: MINECRAFT IS ESSENTIALLY ABOUT TWO THINGS.
CRAFTING...
...AND MINING.
WHOA.
RULE TWO--
--DON'T DIE.
WHOA!

RULE THREE: DON'T DIG STRAIGHT DOWN.
tink!
RULE FOUR: DON'T DIG STRAIGHT UP EITHER.
WHOOSH
RULE EIGHT: THE MORE TORCHES, THE BETTER. MOBS DON'T SPAWN IN THE LIGHT.
RULE ELEVEN: GOLD DOES NOT MAKE GOOD ARMOR.
RULE SEVENTEEN:
YOU CANNOT PET ANIMALS.

RULE TWENTY-ONE: BE CAUTIOUS! ALWAYS AVOID YOUR ENEMY!
WHAT IF YOU CAN'T AVOID THE ENEMY?!?!
RULE FORTY-SIX: DON'T FORGET TO SLEEP!
RULE FIFTY: WATER CAN BREAK YOUR FALL
RULE SIXTY-SEVEN: ALWAYS REPLANT YOUR TREES.
RULE TH
RULE SEVENTY-TH NEVER ATTACK ZOMBIFIED PIGLINS.
RULE EIGHTY-FIVE: BUCKETS ARE YOUR BEST FRIENDS.
RULE NINETY-FOUR
SIXTY-ONE

RULE ONE-HUNDRED-THREE: YOU CAN FISH ANYWHERE THERE'S WA--
I CAUGHT ONE!

HEY, GOOD JOB! YOU'RE A PRETTY FAST LEARNER.

YOU'RE MORE THAN READY TO PLAY ON YOUR OWN NOW.
HUH?

ARE YOU SURE? MAYBE WE COULD...
NAH, YOU'LL DO GREAT BY YOURSELF. I BET YOU CAN EVEN TAKE DOWN A BOSS!

A BOSS LIKE...
A WITHER?

WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING SO DANGEROUS FOR ME? YOU SHOULD JUST WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF.
WHAT?! YOU'VE DONE SO MUCH FOR ME! YOU TAUGHT ME JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING! I WANT TO DO SOMETHING FOR YOU!
AND DON'T YOU THINK IT'D BE FUN?!

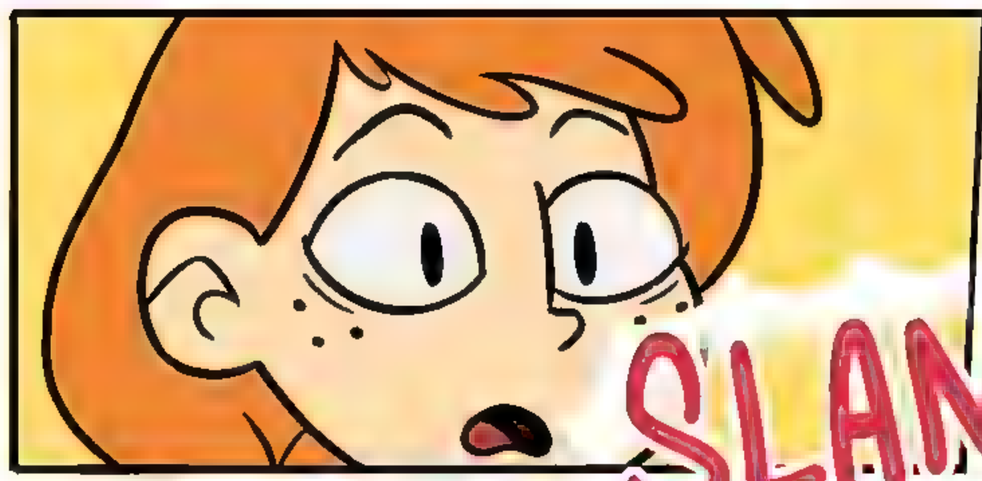
TOGETHER. WE'LL GET A WITHER TOGETHER, IT'S SAFER.
DEAL?
HMM

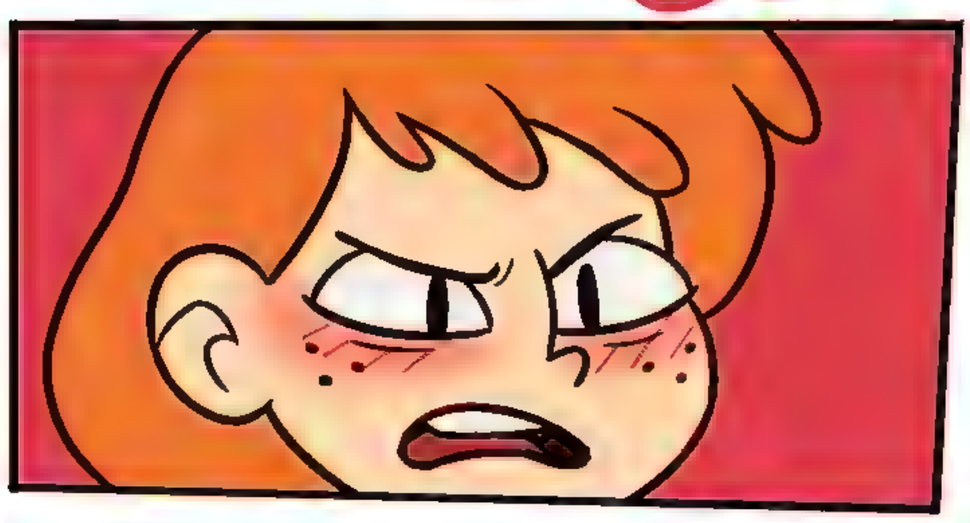
OKAY, BUT ONLY 'CAUSE I WANT THAT NETHER STA--

YES!!
LET'S KICK WITHER BUTT!!

KNOCK
KNOCK
GOOD MORNING.
I HAVE TO ADMIT, I AM KIND OF EXCITED ABOUT THIS! I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD GO TO THE NETHER AGAIN.
I'M EXCITED TOO! I'VE BEEN DOING LOTS OF RESEARCH!
LET'S SEE, FIRST WE'LL NEED...
OH, I KNOW! ARMOR!
TADA!
OOOO DIAMOND!
hehe
CATCH!
BOOP!
OH MY GOSH! I GOTTA GO!!!
CLANG!

KNOCK
KNOCK
HI!
I HAD THE BEST NIGHT! MY MOM CAME HOME EARLY, WHICH SHE NEVER DOES AND BROUGHT PIZZA! IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE --
YEAH...
I DON'T THINK THIS IS GOING TO WORK OUT, SARAH.
I CAN'T RISK GOING ON A DANGEROUS MISSION WITH SOMEONE WHO IS GOING TO BAIL RANDOMLY.
GO PLAY YOUR GAME SOMEWHERE ELSE.

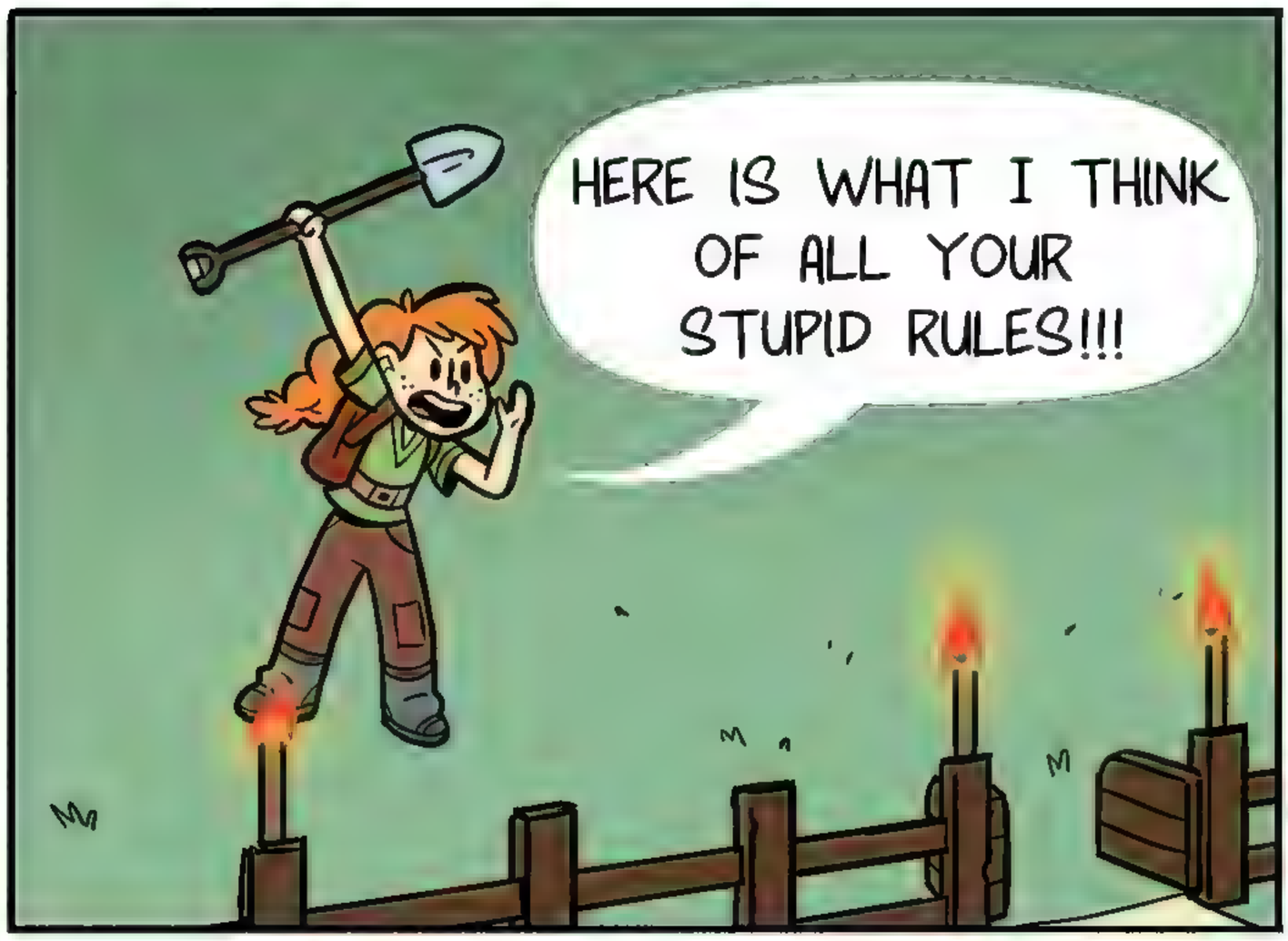




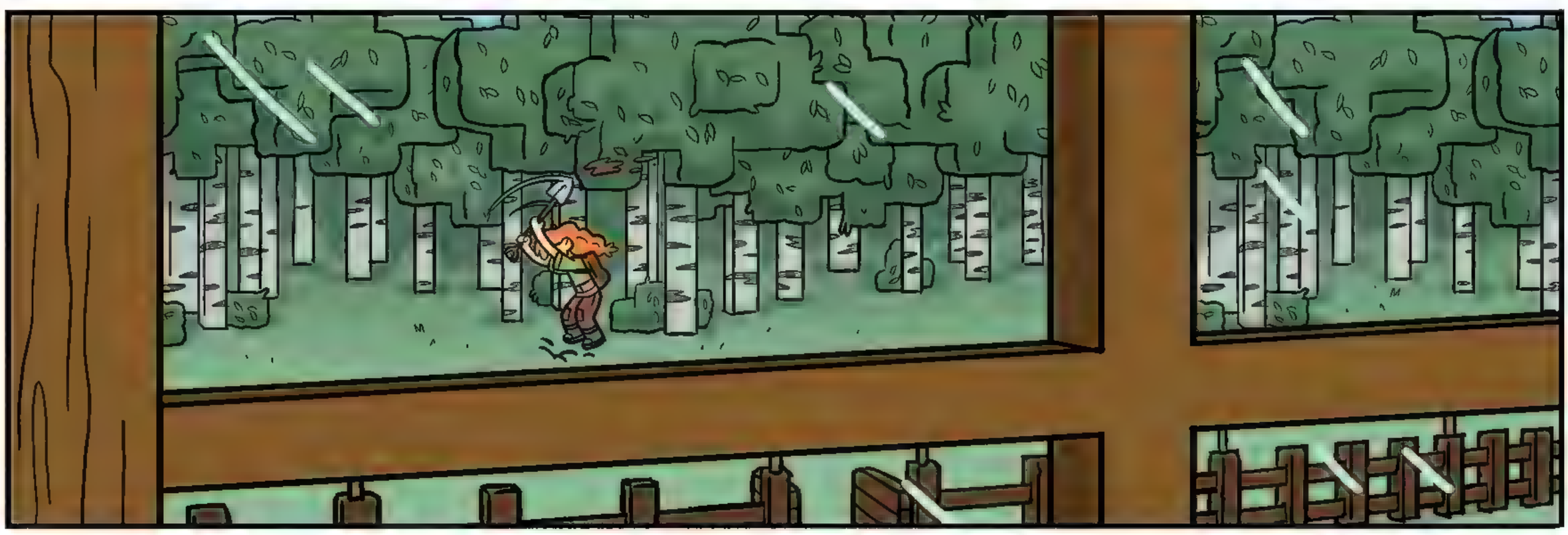
SLAM
BAIL?? IT WAS JUST ONE TIME AND IT WAS FOR A GOOD REASON! WHAT THE HECK IS YOUR PROBLEM!?

MY PROBLEM IS I SHOULD HAVE NEVER LET IN SUCH A RECKLESS NEWBIE LIKE YOU!

WELL I SHOULDN'T HAVE TRIED TO BE FRIENDS WITH SUCH A CONTROL FREAK LIKE YOU!!


HERE IS WHAT I THINK OF ALL YOUR STUPID RULES!!!

SHNK!



PSSH, WHAT AN IDIOT.

whatever.

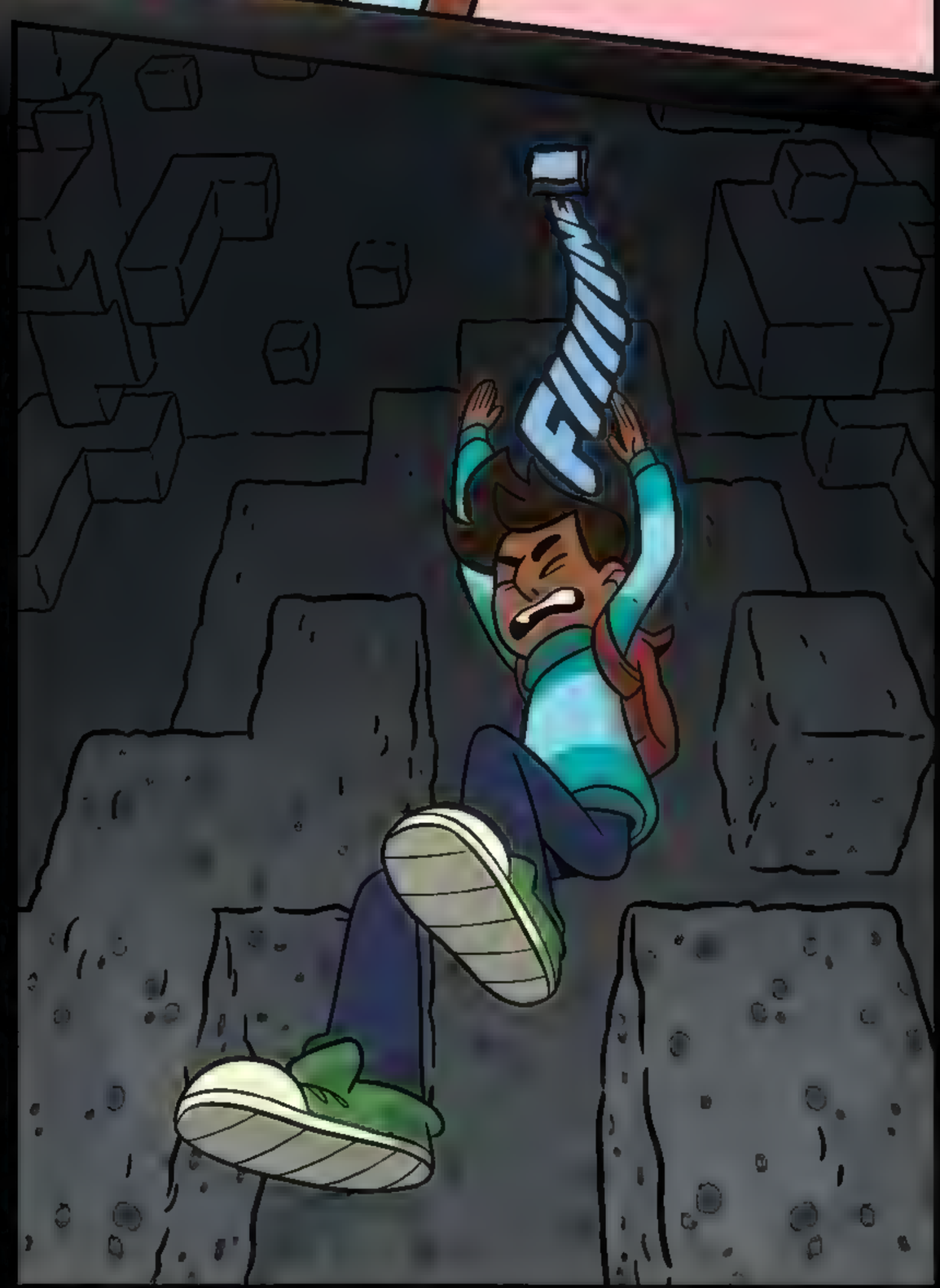
SARAH?

huff
huff

UHHHHH....

guuuhhhhh...

HMM...
AHHH!!


FIIIIIINE

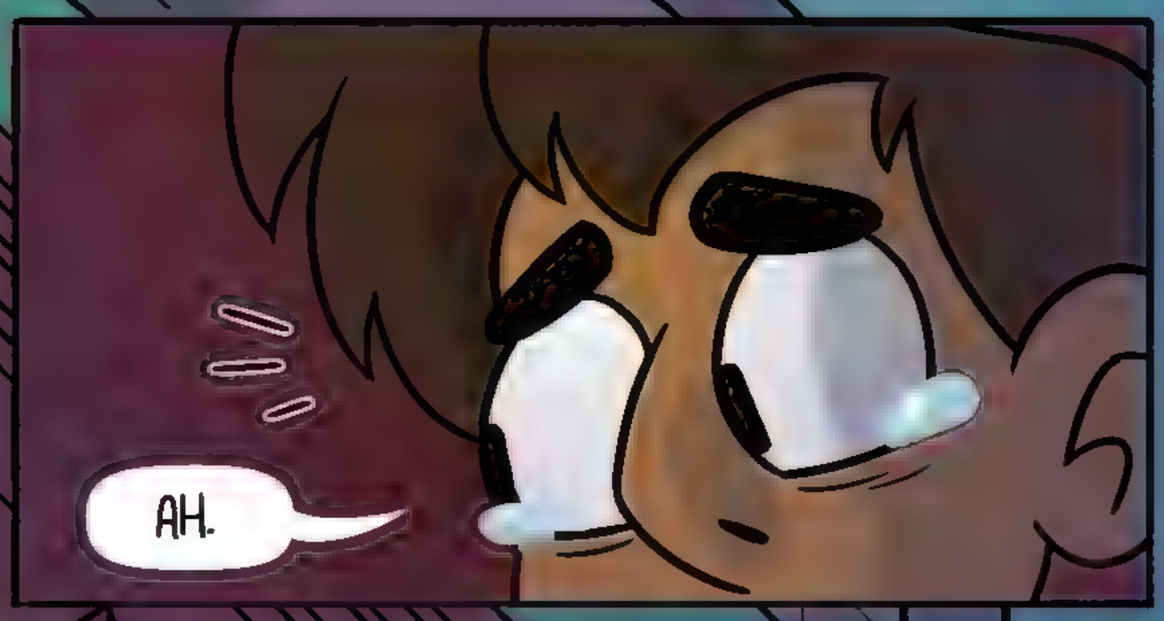
WHAPPS

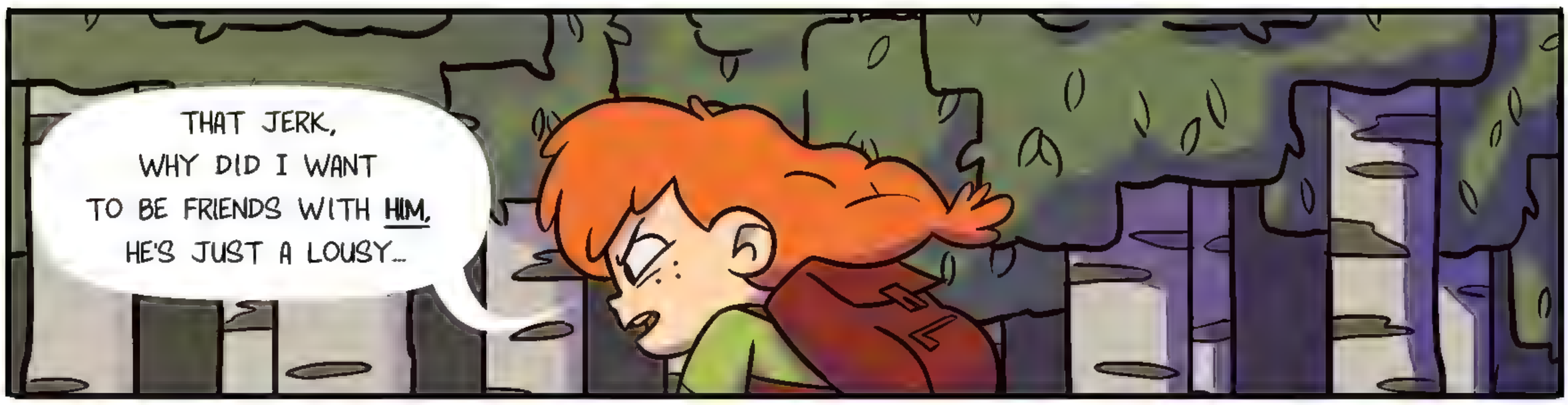
owwww...
HECTOR?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHACK
THWACK!
SO MANY MOBS!
CHOMP
AH!
TONK!
OKAY, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

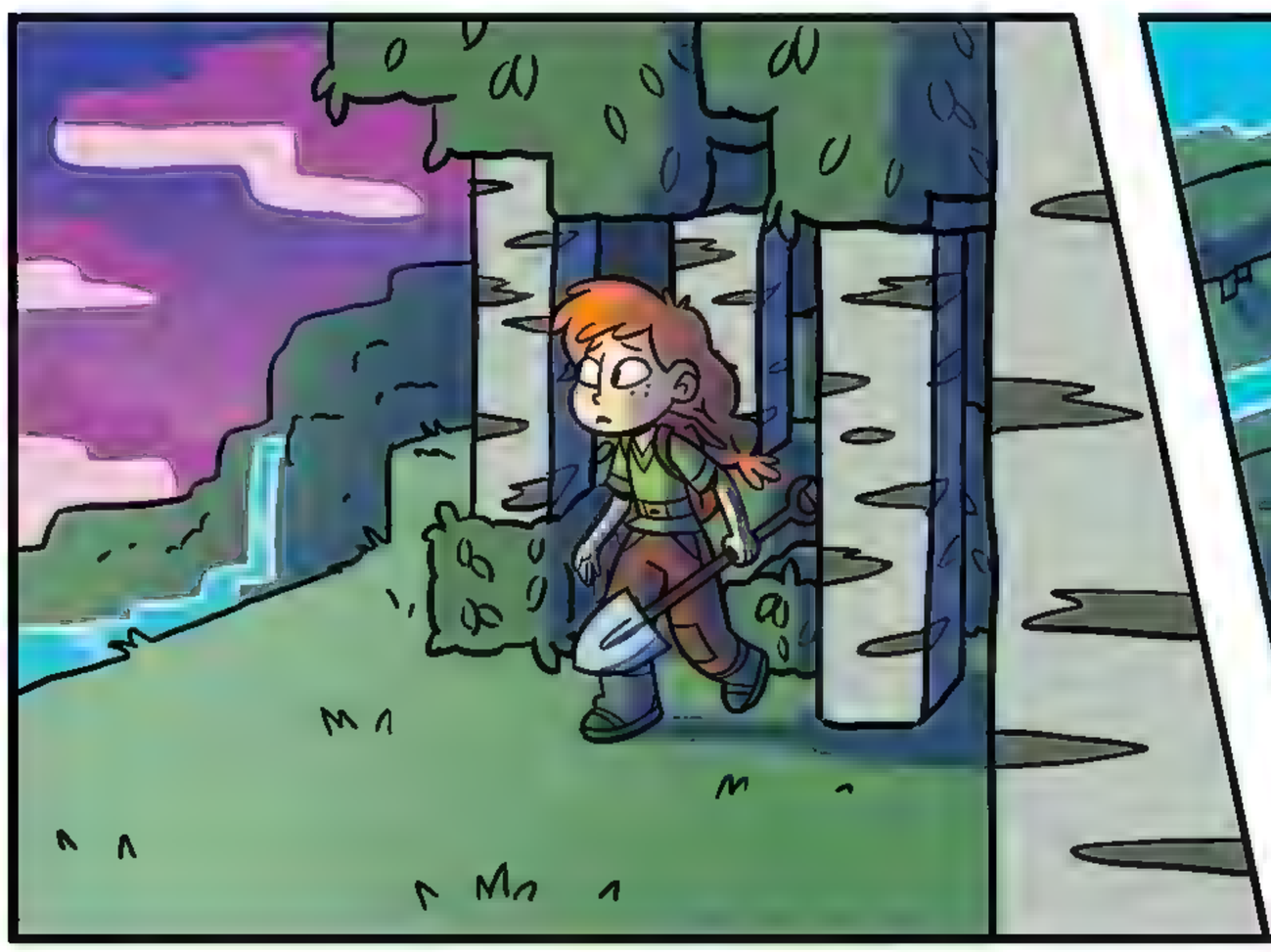
AH WAIT, HECTOR--
YOU ALMOST GOT US BOTH KILLED!
YOU'RE TOTALLY RECKLESS! I CAN'T BELIEVE I CONSIDERED GOING TO THE NETHER WITH YOU.
GO PLAY YOUR GAME FAR AWAY FROM ME.
HUH?

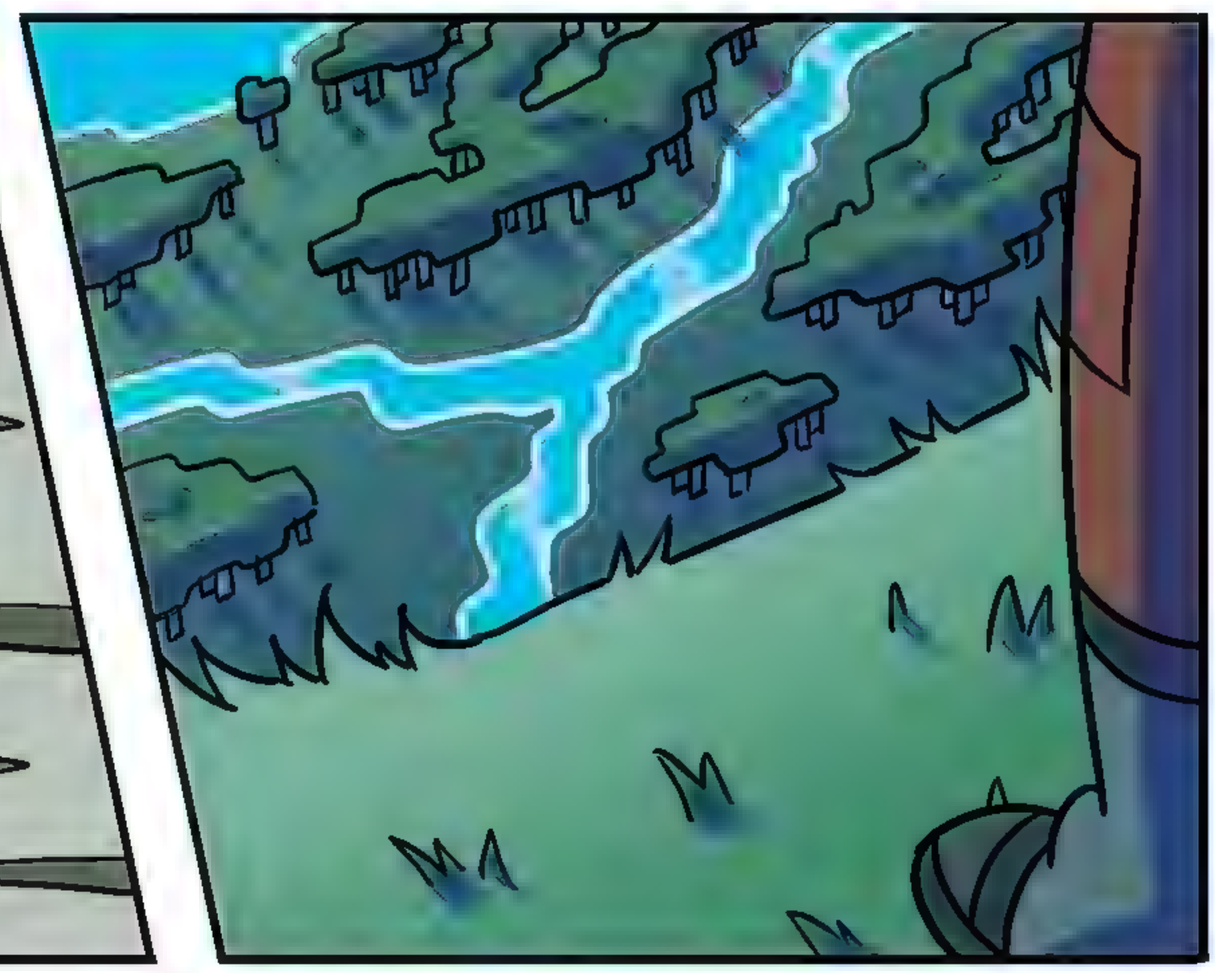
SSSSSSSSSSSSS
SSSSSS
BOOM
OH NO.

WHAT HAVE I DONE...

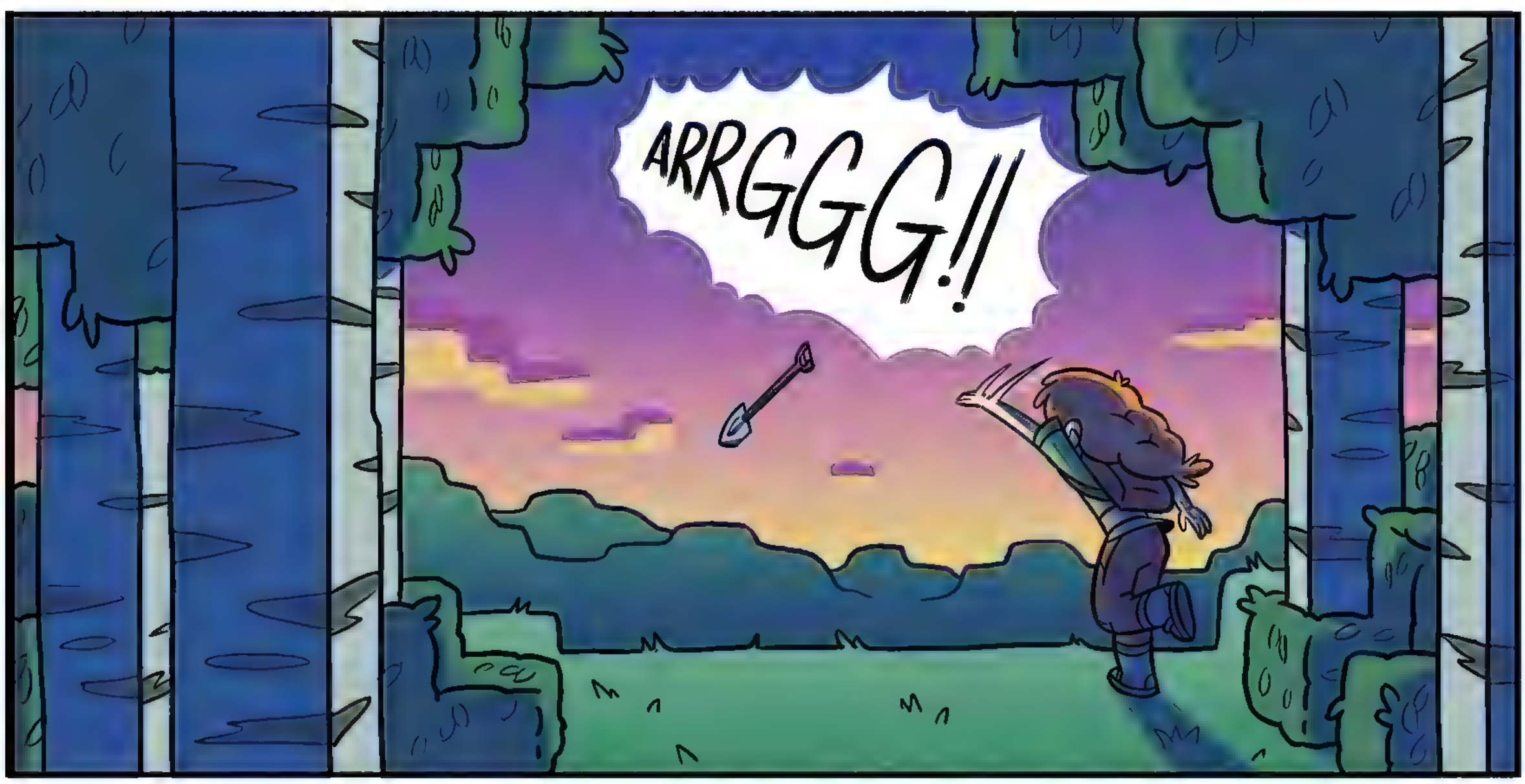



THAT JERK, WHY DID I WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH HIM, HE'S JUST A LOUSY...





SNIFF


ARRGGG!!

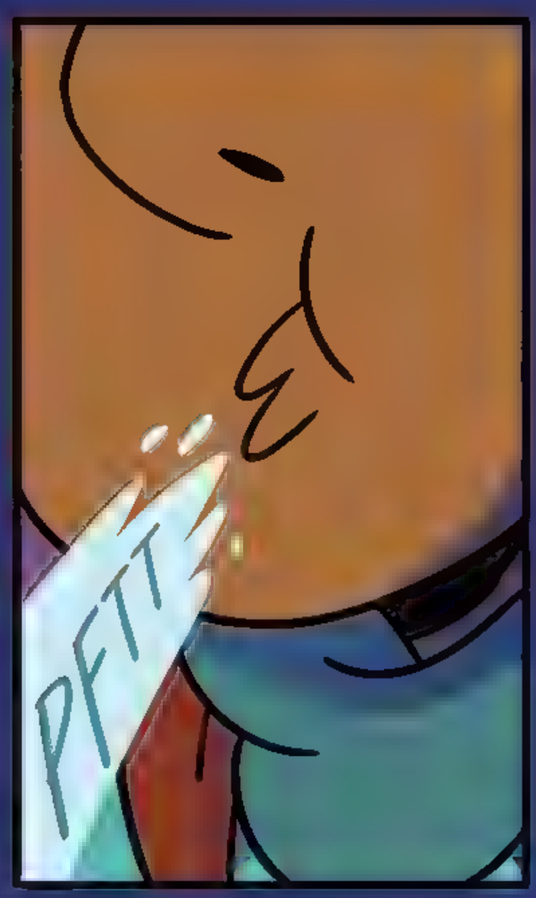
EXACTLY HOW IT WAS BEFORE.

SARAAHHH!!!
rustle
rustle
SARAH!
WHAP!
THERE YOU A—
AAAHHH!!!
pfft
ahem...
WHAT DO YOU WANT.

I WANTED TO TELL YOU...
I'M SORRY.
I JUST... I THINK...
I WAS UPSET WHEN YOU LEFT SUDDENLY.
I... WAS AFRAID OF BEING LEFT ALONE.
REALLY?!
WHAT THE HECK, HECTOR!?
SO, LIKE, YOU TELL ME YOU NEVER WANT TO SEE ME AGAIN? THAT MAKES NO SENSE!
ALSO, YOU DIDN'T LET ME APOLOGIZE OR EXPLAIN AT ALL!
I SIGNED OFF BECAUSE MY MOM CAME HOME! EVER SINCE MY MOM AND I MOVED FOR HER NEW JOB, I DON'T SEE HER AT ALL! SHE LEAVES BEFORE I GET UP, I HAVE TO STAY UP SUPER LATE JUST TO SEE HER WHEN SHE GETS HOME.
I HAVE NO FRIENDS IN THIS CITY, PRACTICALLY NO MOM, ALL I HAVE IS THIS GAME!!!
BUT NO ONE WANTS TO BE FRIENDS WITH A NEWBIE.

CAN I COME IN?
MM.
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T LISTEN.
I WAS SCARED AND I ONLY THOUGHT ABOUT MY PROBLEMS. I PUSHED YOU AWAY BUT YOU'RE A NICE PERSON AND I'M A JERK, I'M SORRY.

INHALE
I'VE NEVER TOLD ANYONE ABOUT THIS, BUT...
MY MOM, DAD, AND I, WE MADE THAT BASE TOGETHER. BUT NOW... IT'S ALL I HAVE LEFT OF THEM.
I JUST FELT LIKE...
...IF I KEPT IT ALL EXACTLY AS THEY LEFT IT, MAINTAIN IT...
...MAYBE IT WOULD BE LIKE THEY WERE KINDA STILL THERE.
BUT I JUST BECAME OBSESSED AND SCARED ALL THE TIME.
I'M SORRY FOR TAKING IT OUT ON YOU.
OH, HECTOR--
AH!
OOF!
POW


PFTT

HAHAHAHAHA

HEH.

I'VE NEVER REALLY TALKED ABOUT THAT, BUT IT FELT GOOD! THANK YOU FOR LISTENING, SARAH.
OF COURSE! ANYTIME!
THE LAST TIME MY PARENTS AND I WERE TOGETHER IN THE GAME, WE WERE GONNA FIND A NETHER STAR TO MAKE A BEACON. THAT'S WHAT THAT EMERALD PYRAMID WAS FOR.

OOOH YEAHHH.

BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE, I CAN'T TAKE CARE OF THE BASE FOREVER, I SHOULD START LETTING IT GO.

WAIT, WHAT!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "IT DOESN'T MATTER"?
LET'S GO GET THAT STAR SO WE CAN FINISH YOUR BASE!!
HUH, YOU STILL WANT TO DO THAT WITH ME? BUT IT'S REALLY DANGEROUS...
I SAID I WANTED TO DO THIS AND I MEANT IT!
MAN, YOU'RE SO BRAVE.
HEY, I MIGHT BE A NEWBIE, BUT I GOT GUTS.
LOOK AROUND.
I DON'T THINK YOU CAN CALL YOURSELF A NEWBIE ANYMORE!

WE HAVE A LOT TO PREPARE.

THE WITHER IS ONE OF THE TOUGHEST BOSSES IN THE GAME.

WE NEED HEALING POTIONS.

BUT BEFORE THE WITHER, WE HAVE TO GO TO THE NETHER. AND IT WILL BE DANGEROUS.

WE NEED THREE WITHER SKELETON SKULLS.

IT WILL BE HARD.

BUT I THINK *WE CAN DO IT.*

AHHH!
OKAY, LET'S GO!!

THERE'S THE FORTRESS, LET'S GET CLIMBING.

IS THAT SOUL SAND?

YEAH, WE'LL NEED THIS FOR THE WITHER.

OH REMEMBER, BE CAREFUL NOT TO TOUCH THE ZOMBIFED PIGLINS, OKAY?

THE WHA--

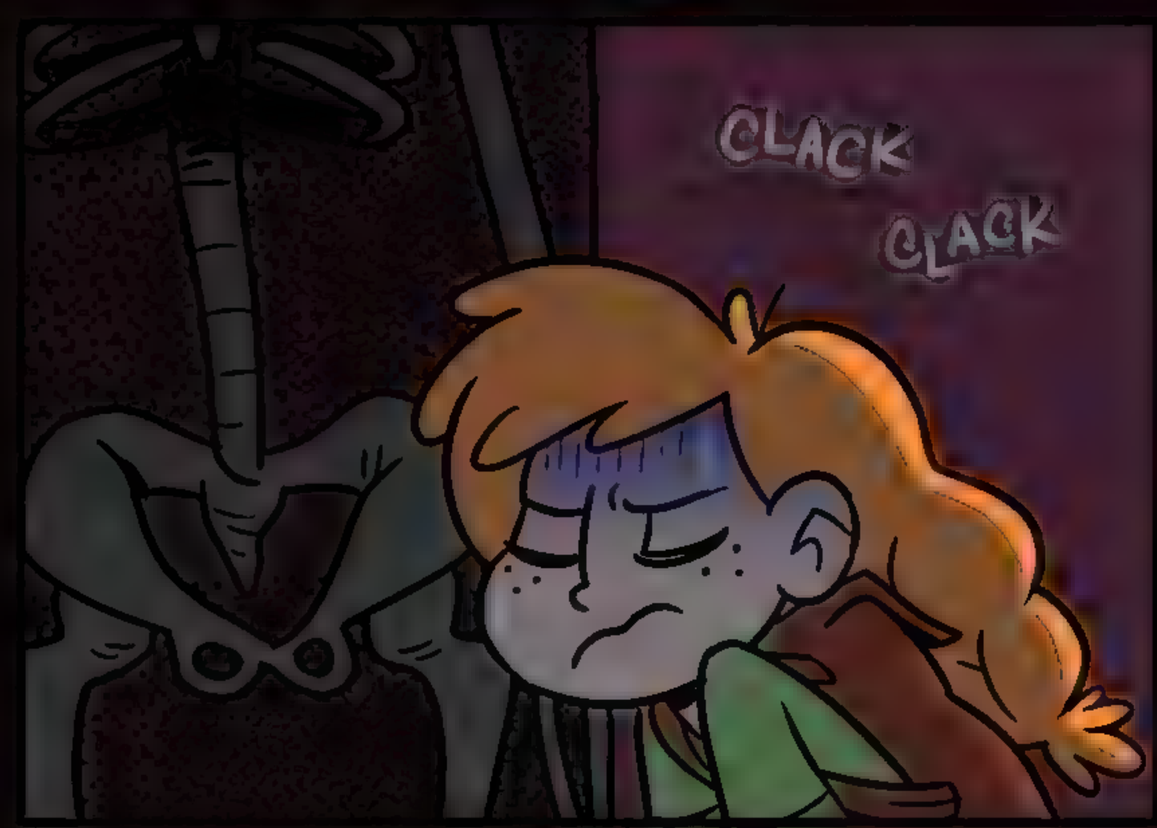
AAAAA!!

WE'RE HERE.

STAY CLOSE, THESE PLACES ARE LIKE MAZES.

clack
clack

clack
clack
clack


CLACK
CLACK

AHH!!
WHAM
CLACK
CLACK
SARAH?!
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
POOF

NO SKULL, NOT SURPRISED. IT WON'T BE THAT EASY.

uhhhh...

OH NO! YOU HAVE WITHER EFFECT! HURRY, DRINK SOME MILK!

gulp

glug

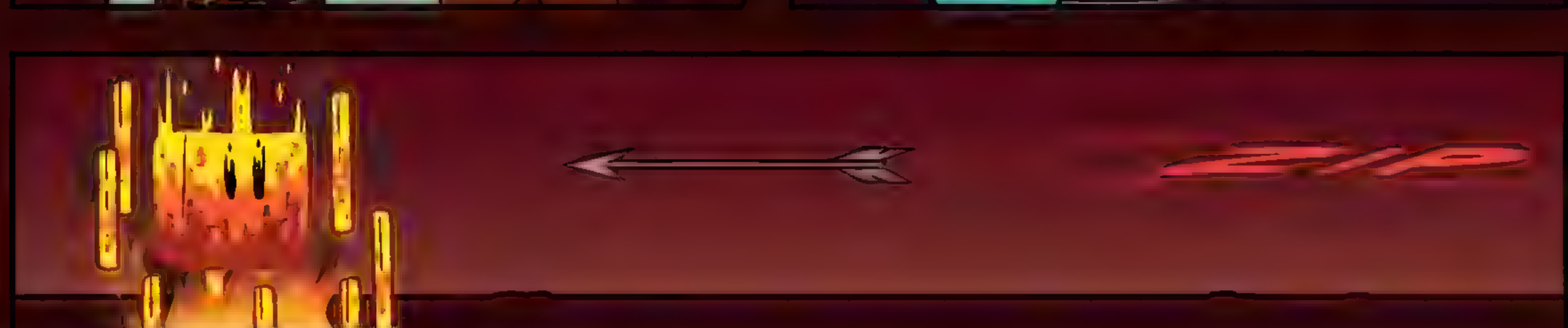
ahh.

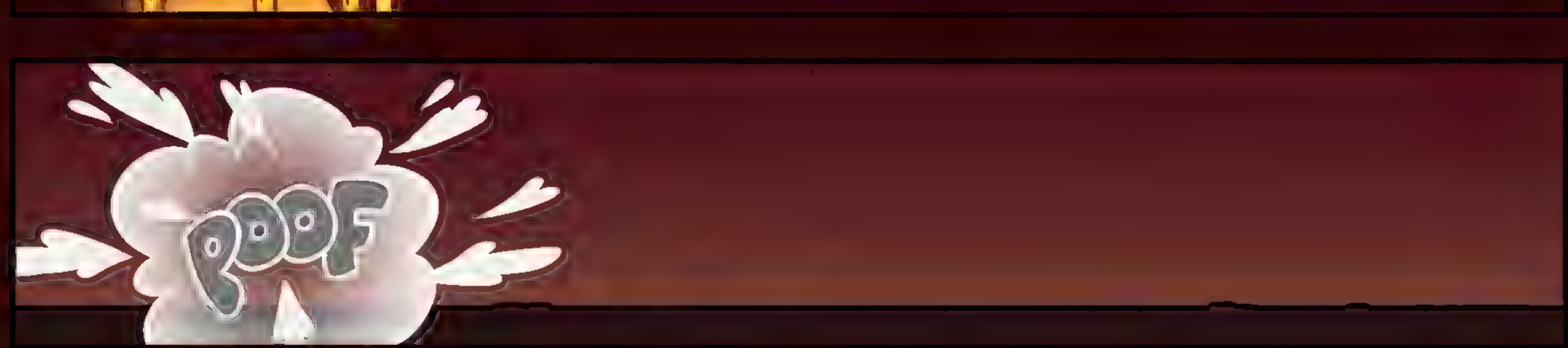
ARE YOU OKAY? WE CAN GO BACK AND REGROUP IF--

NO NO, I'M FINE! IT JUST CAUGHT ME BY SURPRISE! COOL AS CUCUMBER, THAT'S ME!

OKAY, IF YOU'RE SURE, LET'S GO.

FOOOOM
BLAZE!
LOOK OUT!




POOF

NICE!
SARAH, LOOK!

SEE THIS?
IT'S BLAZE ROD,
IT'S GOOD FOR--

...SARAH?

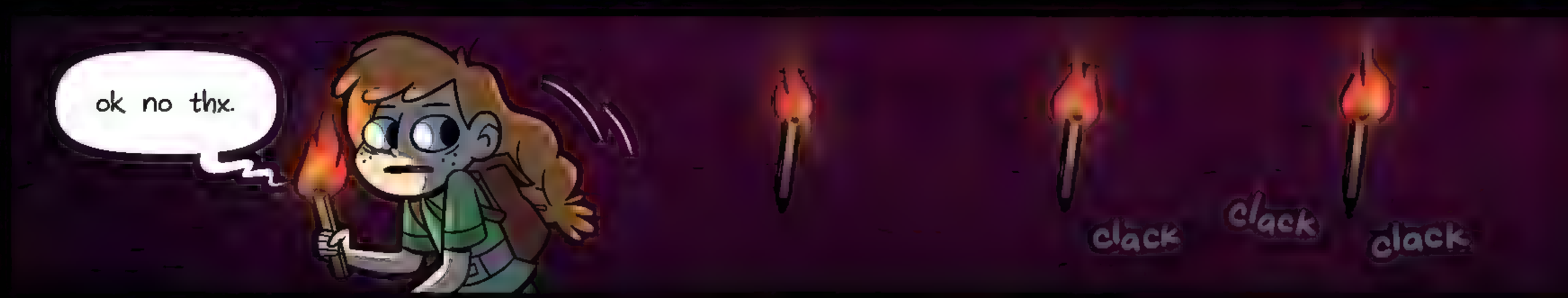
SARAH?
oooowwww....

HECTOR?

WHERE ARE YOU?!
I FELL!

I'LL FIND YOU!

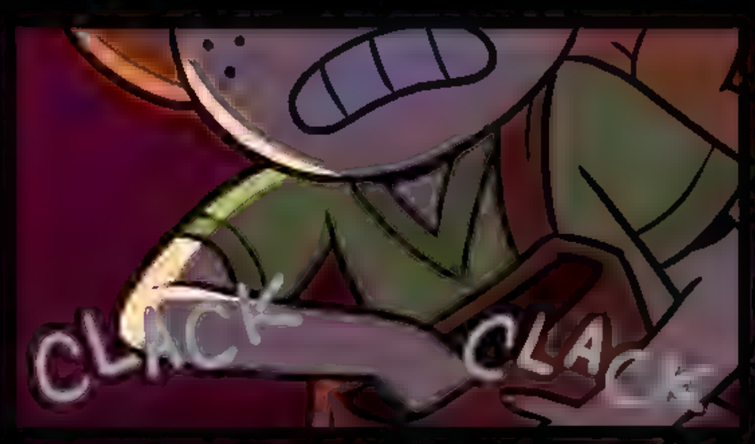
clack
Clack


ok no thx.
clack
clack
clack

clack
Clack

ah.
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK

CLACK
CLACK
CLACK


CLACK
CLACK

CLACK
CLACK

POP!

CLACK
CLACK

CLACK
CLACK

POP!

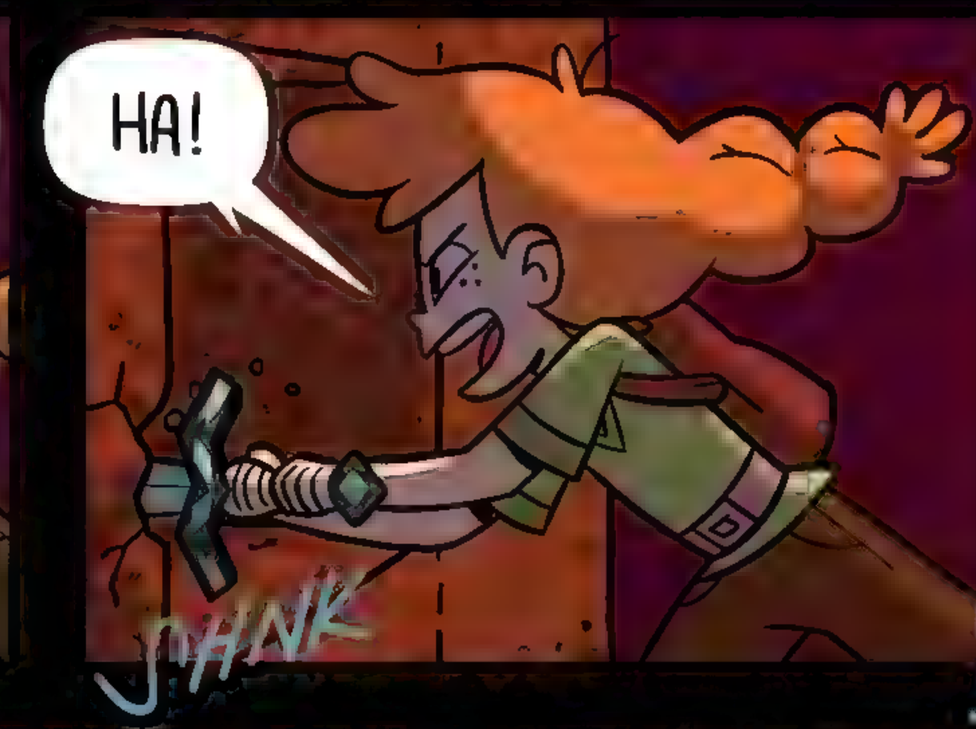
OKAY, YOU'RE BRAVE, REMEMBER?

CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK

AW MAAAN....
...YOU CAN DO THIS...
YEEAA!!

SHNNK

IT WORKED!!


HA!
SHNK

HA! YAH!
SHNK
SHNK HA!

POOF
ALL RIGHT! TWO DOWN! ONE TO...

WAIT, WHERE...
IS...

POOF
SARAAAH!

HEEEEY....
THERE YOU ARE.

I GOT ONE!
WOW! AMAZING!
BUT YOU LOOK LOW ON HEALTH, ARE YOU OKAY?

YEAH, IT WAS TOUGH!
CRUNCH

BUT I HANDLED IT ON MY OWN!
AH!
YOU'RE SO GOOD AT THIS GAME ALREADY, I'M PROBABLY JUST HOLDING YOU BACK BY BEING A BIG SCAREDY CAT.

WHAT! THAT'S NOT TRUE!!
THE TRUTH IS...
I ONLY ACT BRAVE ALL THE TIME. I'VE BEEN REALLY SCARED.

IT'S EASY TO ACT BRAVE WHEN YOU'RE NOT ALONE.
REALLY? I FEEL THE SAME WAY!
FOR REAL?
YEAH! I NEVER WOULD HAVE COME HERE AGAIN IF YOU WEREN'T WITH ME.
IT'S LIKE YOU GIVE ME LEVEL III BRAVERY POWER OR SOMETHING!

I'M GLAD WE'RE STICKING TOGETHER IN THE NETHER FROM NOW ON, BUT I WAS **LUCKY** TO GET A SKULL TOO WHEN I WAS ALONE LOOKING FOR YOU.

WE SHOULD GET THESE TWO BACK TO SAFETY AND GET MORE EQUIPMENT.

I'M RUNNING LOW ON AR--

--ROWS...

CLACK

CLACK

CLACK

CLACK

TOO MANY!

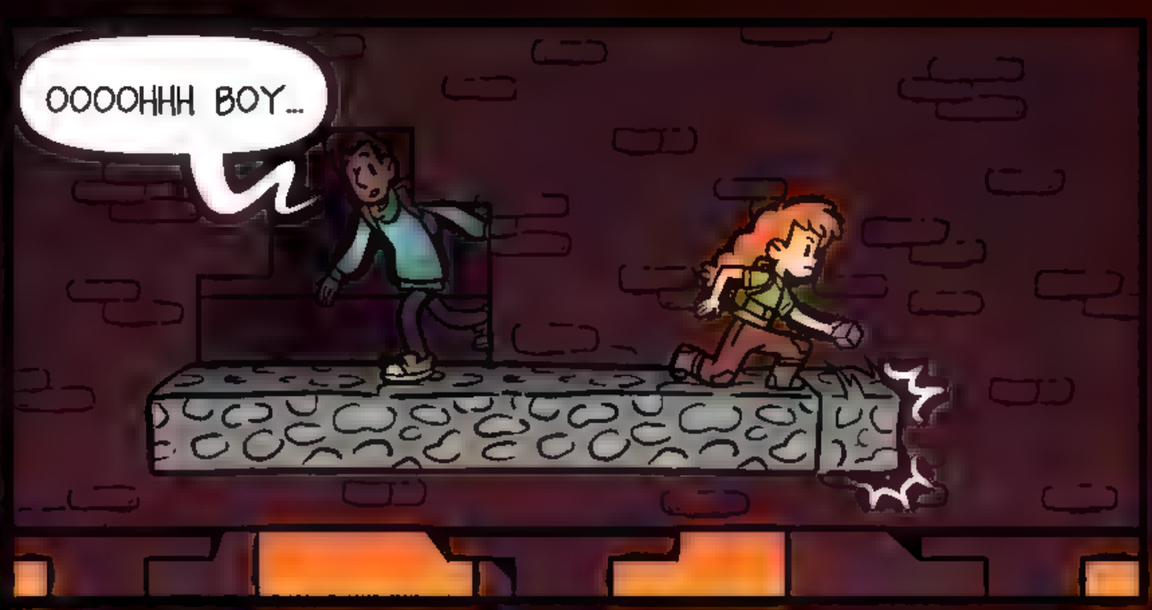
CLACK

CLACK

POOF

HUH? A SKULL?!

THERE'S A SKULL!
THERE'S A SKULL BACK THERE!!
WHAT DO WE DO??
HUH?!
SCREECH
POP
POP
BONK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
WE NEED TO GET TO THAT SKULL BEFORE IT DESPAWNS, I DON'T KNOW IF WE CAN KILL THEM ALL IN TIME!
I HAVE AN IDEA!

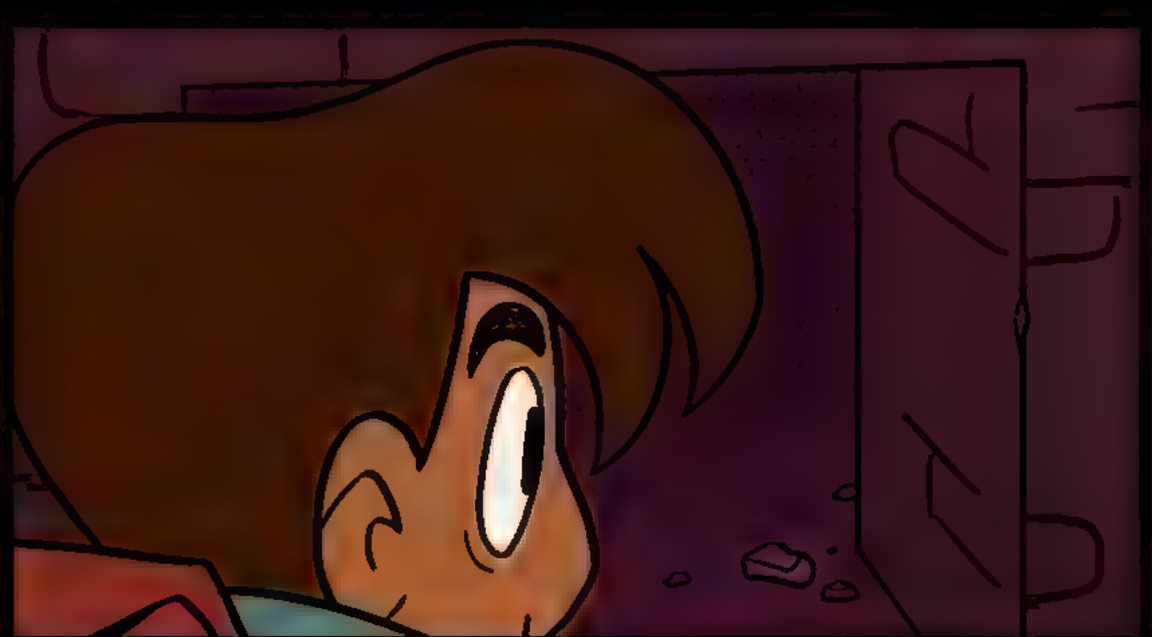

OOOOHHH BOY...

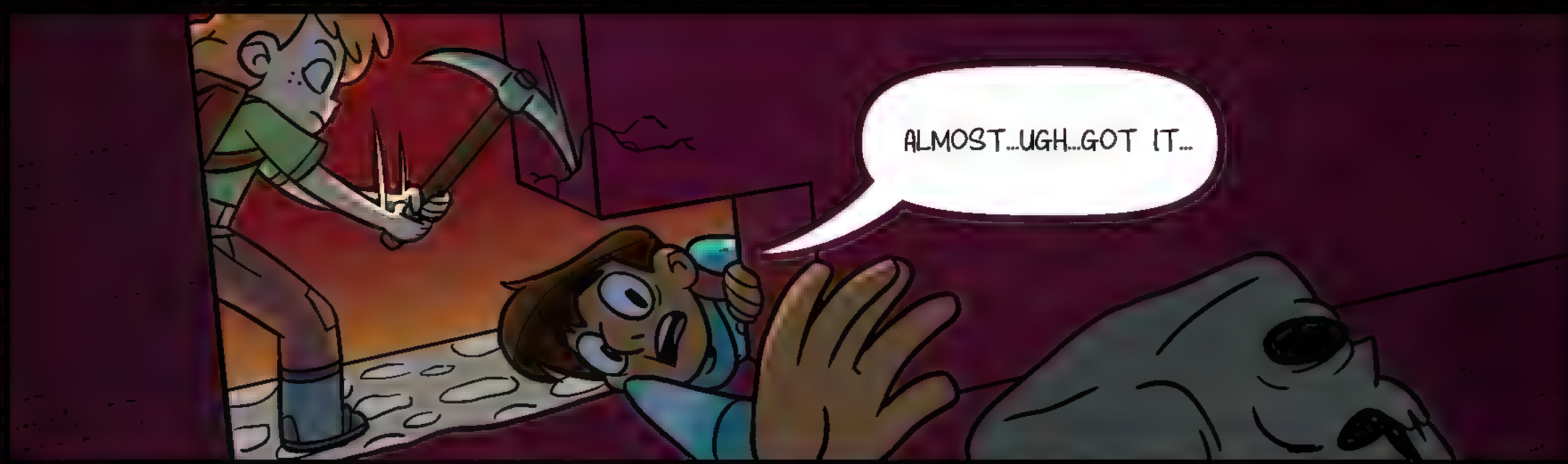
I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THIS...

IT'LL BE OKAY!
YOU THINK IT'S ABOUT HERE?
YEAH, LET'S CHECK.

CHUNK
CRACK

AH! THERE IT IS!




ALMOST...UGH...GOT IT...

AH!

CLANK
CLACK
CLACK

GET IT!!
CLACK
CLACK

ARG!!

GOT IT!!

HA
HA
HA
YES!
HA
HA

THAT WAS SO EXCITING! I FEEL SO ALIVE!
LET'S GO SKYDIVING OR SOMETHING!

WELL, LET'S THINK ABOUT THAT AFTER WE GET BACK TO THE OVERWORLD SAFELY. WE CAME OUT A DIFFERENT EXIT SO WE HAVE A LONG WALK BACK.

LET'S GO FIGHT THAT ENDER DRAGON I'VE BEEN READING ABOUT.
HAHA, SUUUUURE...

CLANG
SQUEEEE

I'M SOOOORRY!!!
HUH?

OH, C'MON!

A DEAD END!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING! DON'T DIG DOWN! WE'RE ABOVE LAVA!

C'MON! FOLLOW ME!

UHHH...

TRUST ME!

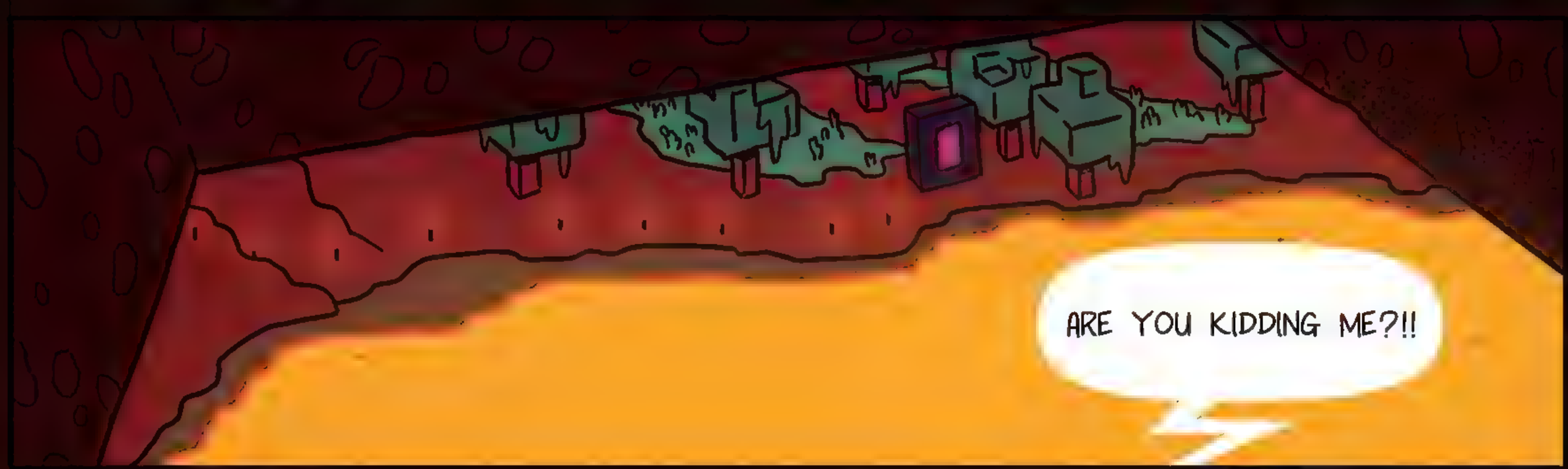
OKAY!

POP!

OKAY, THE ZOMBIFIED PIGLINS SHOULD COOL OFF SOON, THEN WE CAN--

AH!

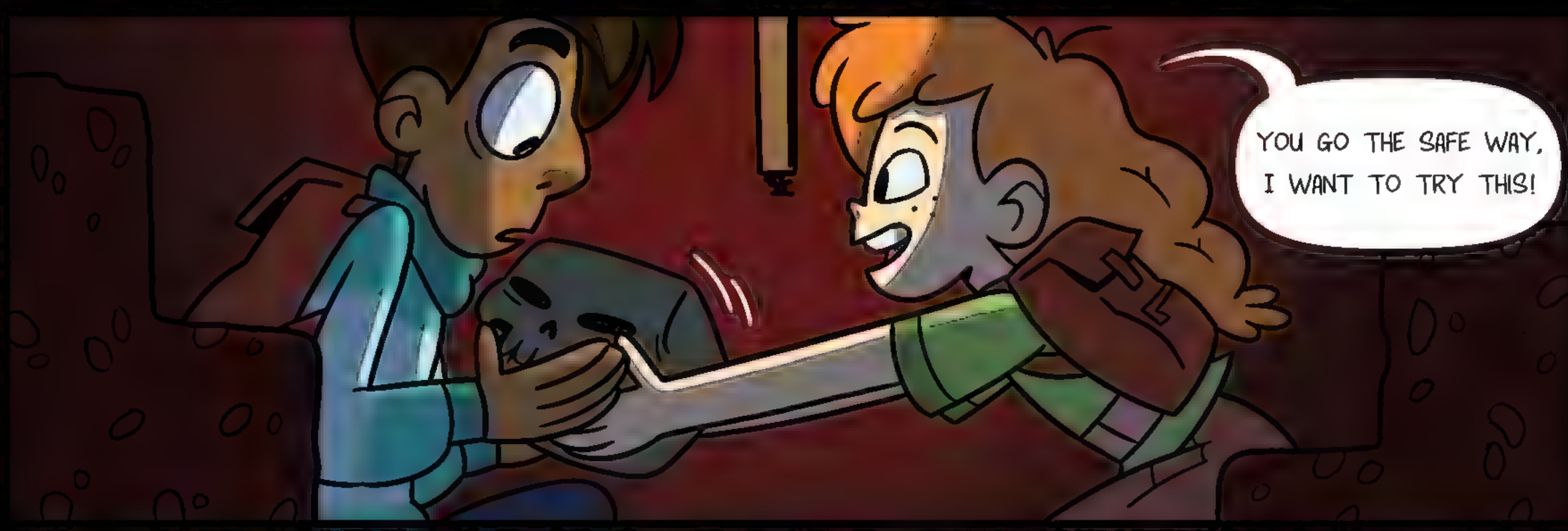
LOOK, IT'S SO CLOSE! LET'S TRY THIS WAY!


ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!!

THAT IS COMPLETELY RISKY! WE NEED TO PLAY IT SAFE! THE ZOMBIFIED PIGLINS ARE PROBABLY NOT AGRO ANYMORE.

...

WHAT'S WITH ALL THE GRAVEL...

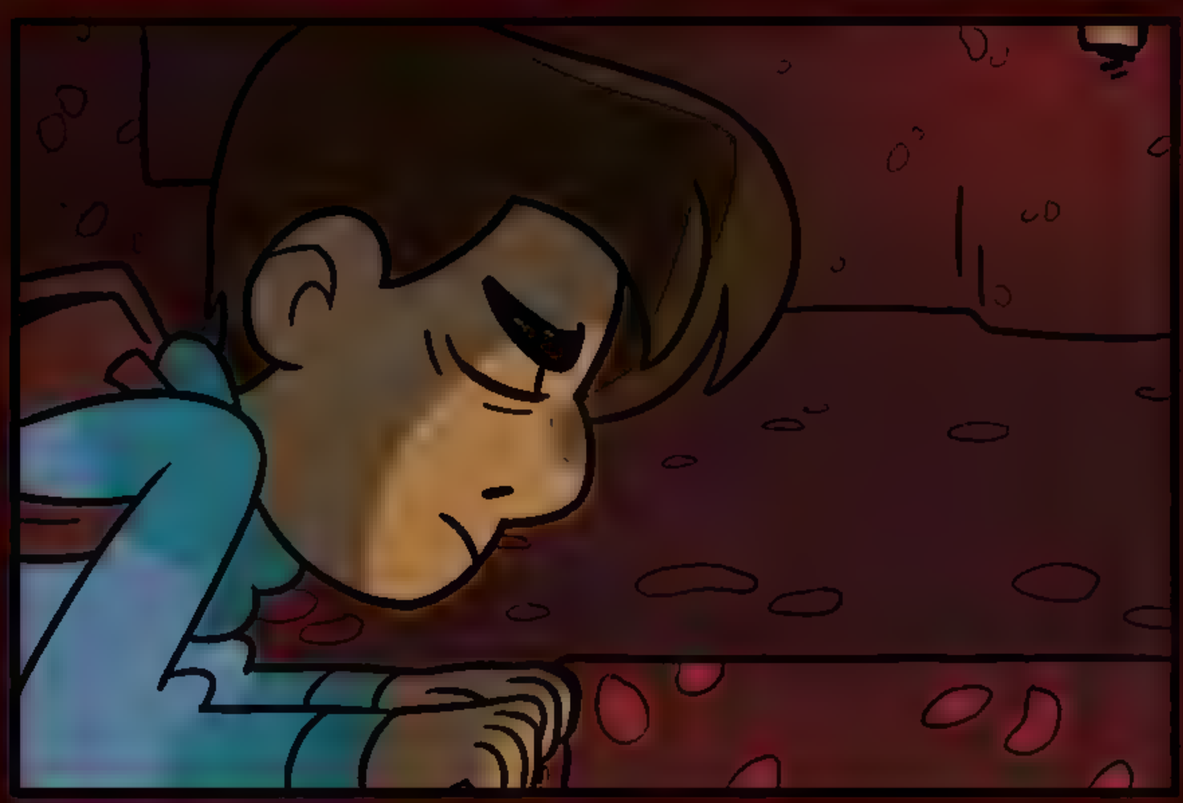

YOU GO THE SAFE WAY, I WANT TO TRY THIS!

I KNOW IT'S RECKLESS, BUT--

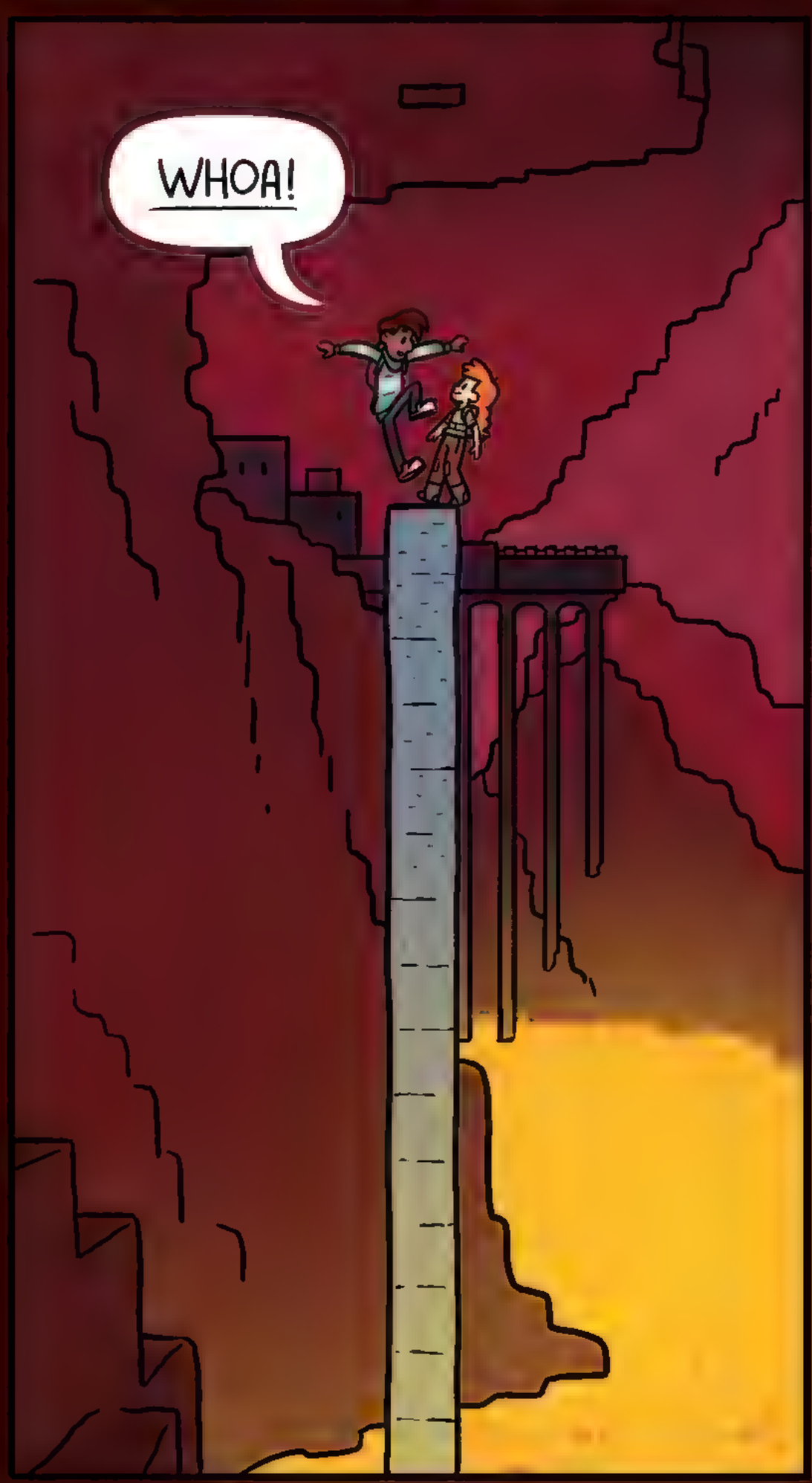
HEY!
WOOOOOOOO!

I DID IT!!
YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO COME? AREN'T YOU TIRED OF PLAYING IT SAFE?

YES I AM...
I WANT TO BE BRAVE.



WE'RE GONNA DIE!!!


WHOA!

HAHAHA!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I DID IT!

SCREEEECH
GO GO GO GO!
SHNK
OH NO,
I'M OUT OF ARROWS!
C'MON, HECTOR! HURRY!

POOF
YOU DID IT!
WOW...
AMAZING!!

OKAY...

YOU HAVE ALL YOUR ARMOR REPAIRED? GOT ENOUGH ARROWS?

HEALTH POTIONS?

I'M READY!

I'VE NEVER FOUGHT A WITHER BEFORE, BUT I'VE HEARD THEY'RE REALLY HARD TO BEAT. IF WE DIE, WE'LL HAVE TO START ALL OVER AGAIN...

GOOD!

"GOOD"?

HECTOR, I'VE BEEN HAVING SO MUCH FUN.

I WOULDN'T MIND IF WE HAD TO DO IT A HUNDRED MORE TIMES UNTIL WE GET YOU THAT NETHER STAR! BUT I THINK WE CAN DO IT! I'M EXCITED!

YEAH...

YEAH, WE CAN DO THIS!

RUN!

BOOM

CHAAAHH
BOOM
IT'S AFTER ME!
GOT IT!
HEY, BONE BRAINS!
WHAP!

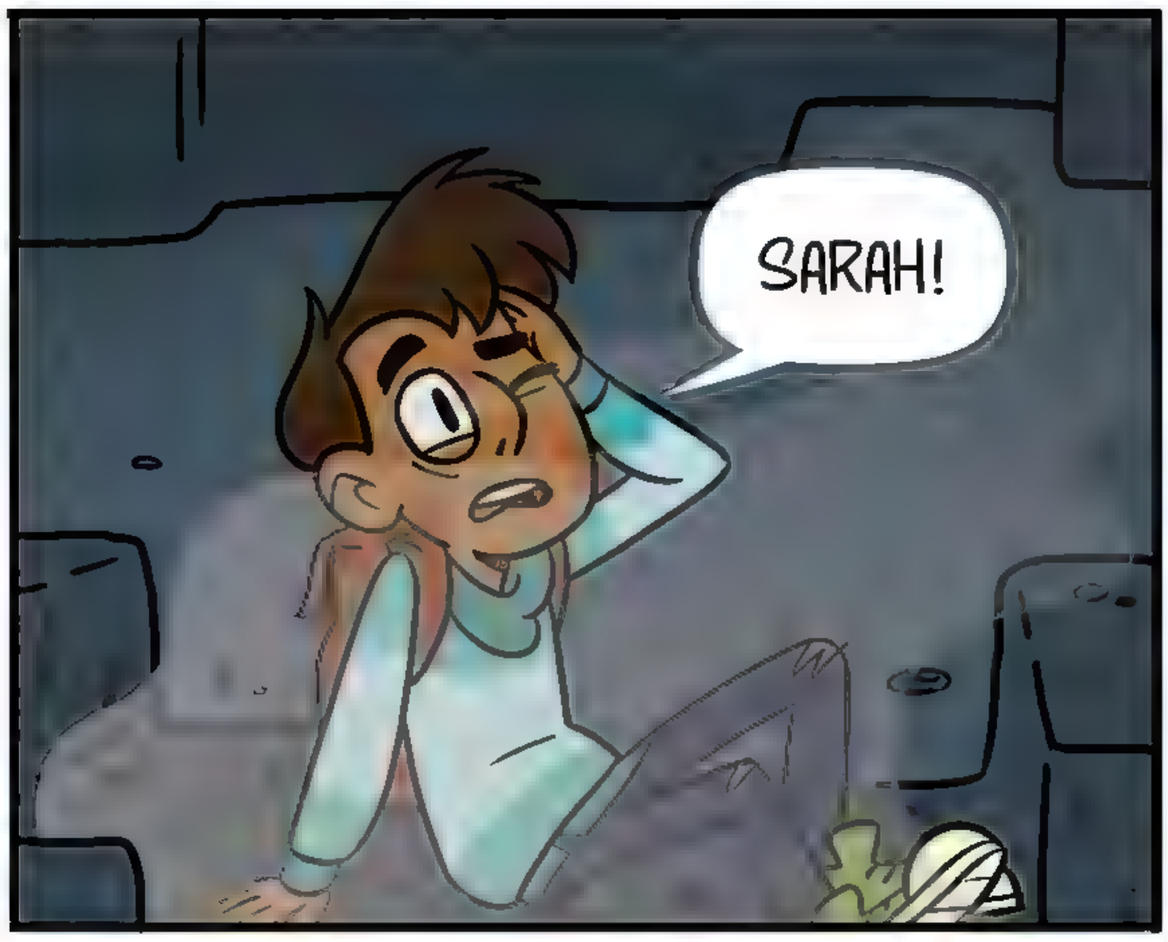
HA!!
YOUR TURN!
BOOM

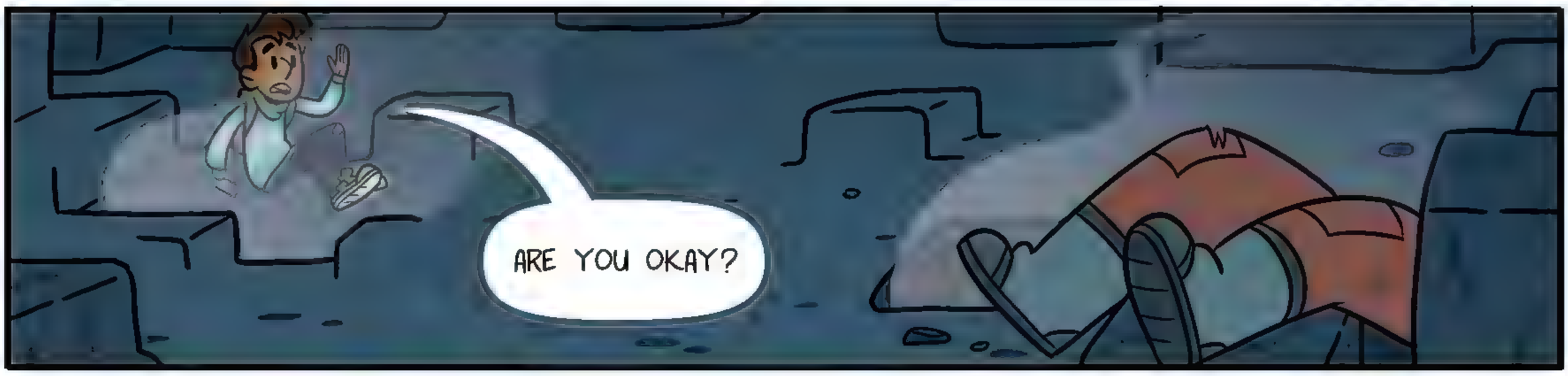
CHAAAAAAAAAA
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
AH!
IT'S AT HALF HEALTH, ARROWS WON'T WORK ON IT ANYMORE!
NOW WE USE SWORDS.
SWOOSH
AAAH!

CHAAAAA
BOOM
HECTOR!
LAST ONE ALREADY?

I'M OUT OF HEALING, GOT ANYMORE?
THAT WAS ACTUALLY MY LAST ONE, I'M OUT!
HA! MR. CAREFUL DIDN'T BRING ENOUGH POTIONS?
CHAAAAA
BOOM

ugh...

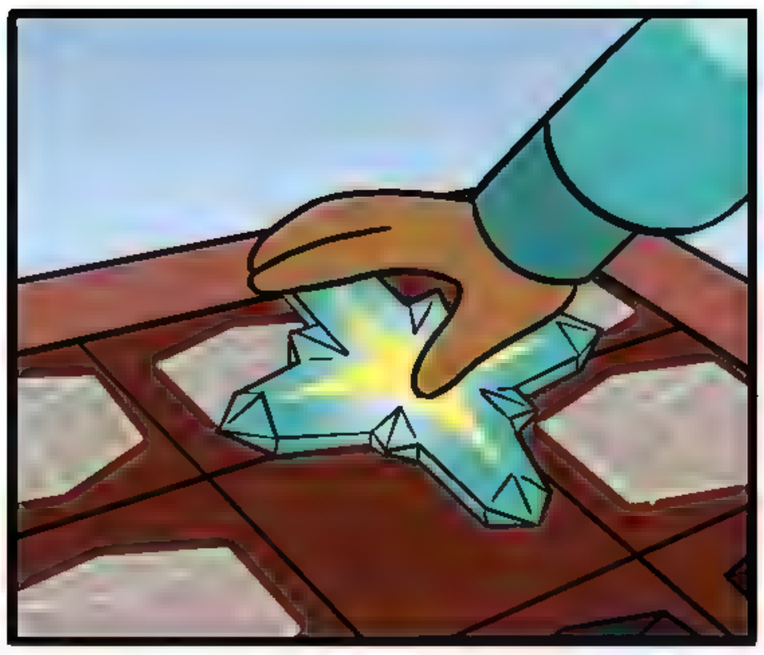

SARAH!

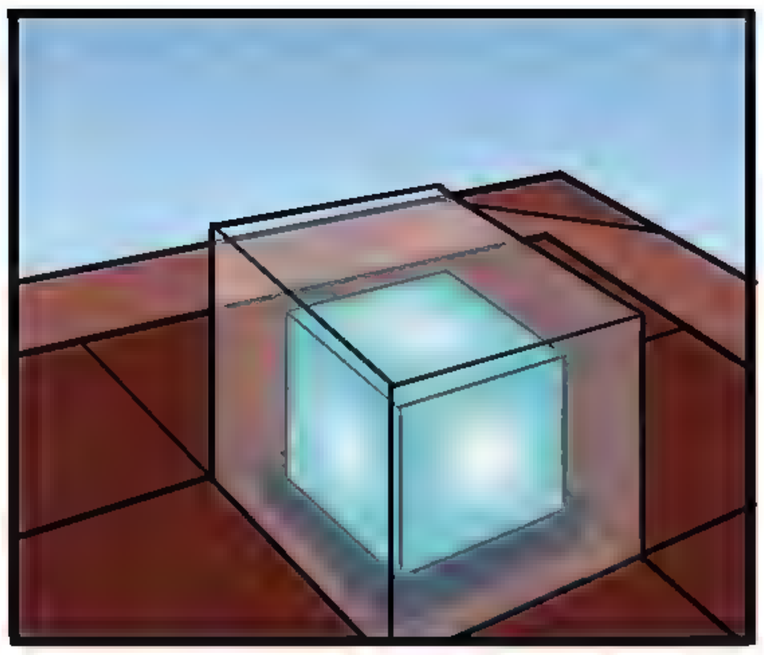

ARE YOU OKAY?

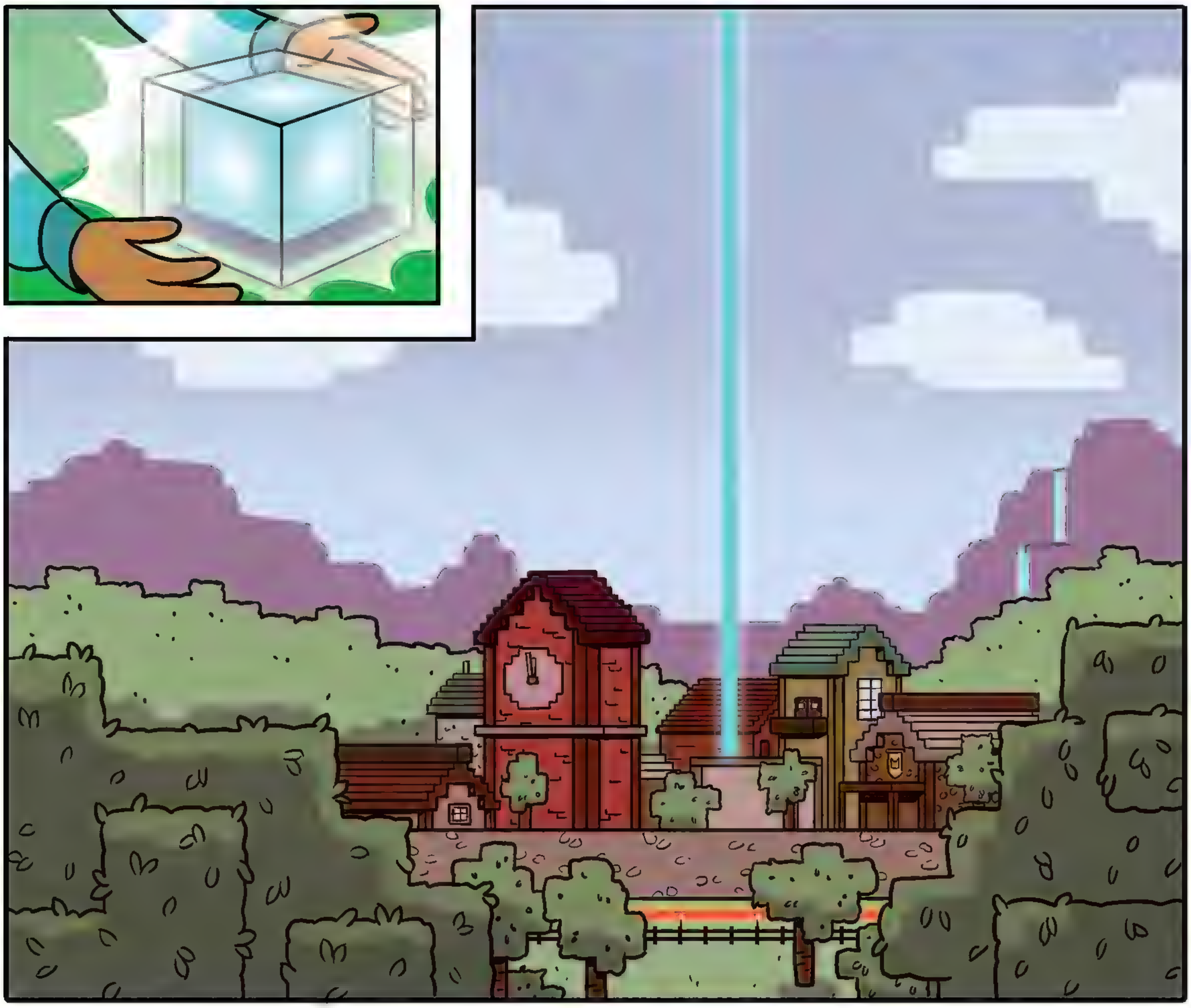
UGH, I THINK I'M DYING...

BUT HEY...

...LOOK WHAT I GOT!

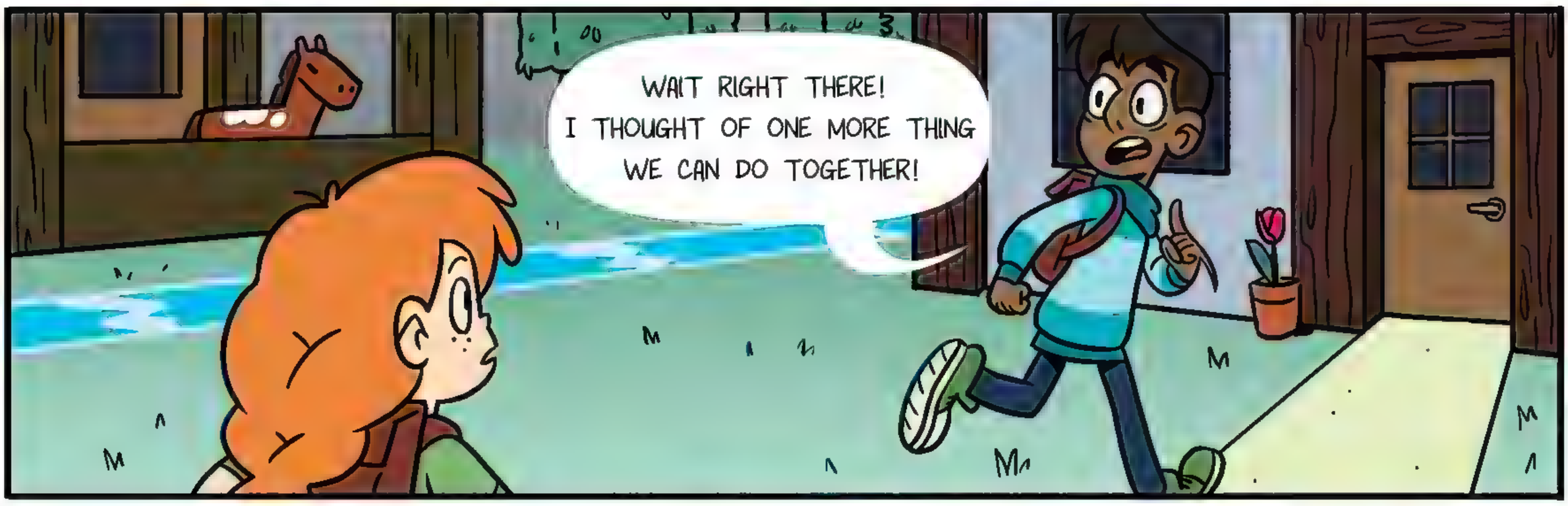






WOW...

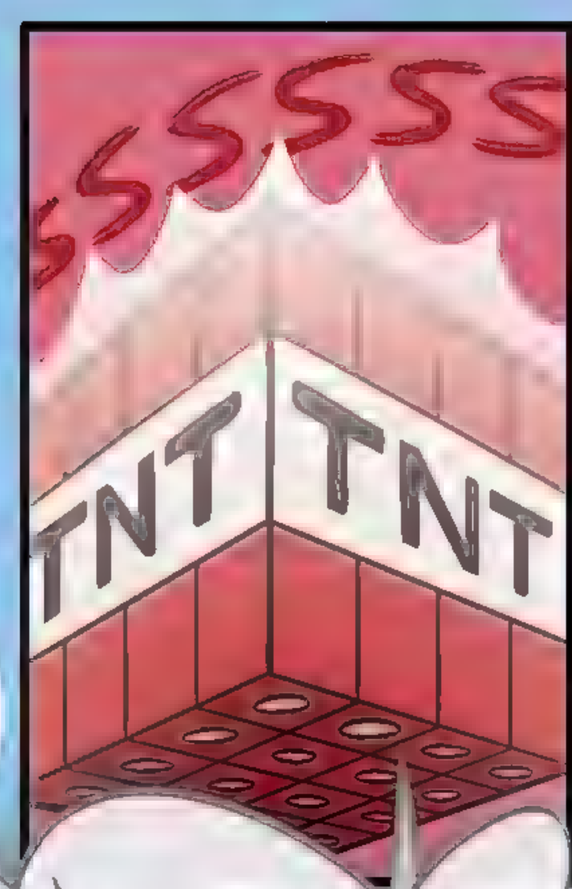
UM, WELL...I GUESS SINCE WE'RE DONE, I SHOULD GO NOW...


WAIT RIGHT THERE! I THOUGHT OF ONE MORE THING WE CAN DO TOGETHER!

HUH? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
HERE WE GO...

I REALIZED SOMETHING WHILE WE WERE PLAYING TOGETHER...
HEY WAIT! IS THAT DYNAMITE??

TNT
TNT
I WAS HAVING SO MUCH FUN!
I PUT WALLS UP TO PROTECT MYSELF FOR SO LONG, I FORGOT WHAT REALLY MATTERED!



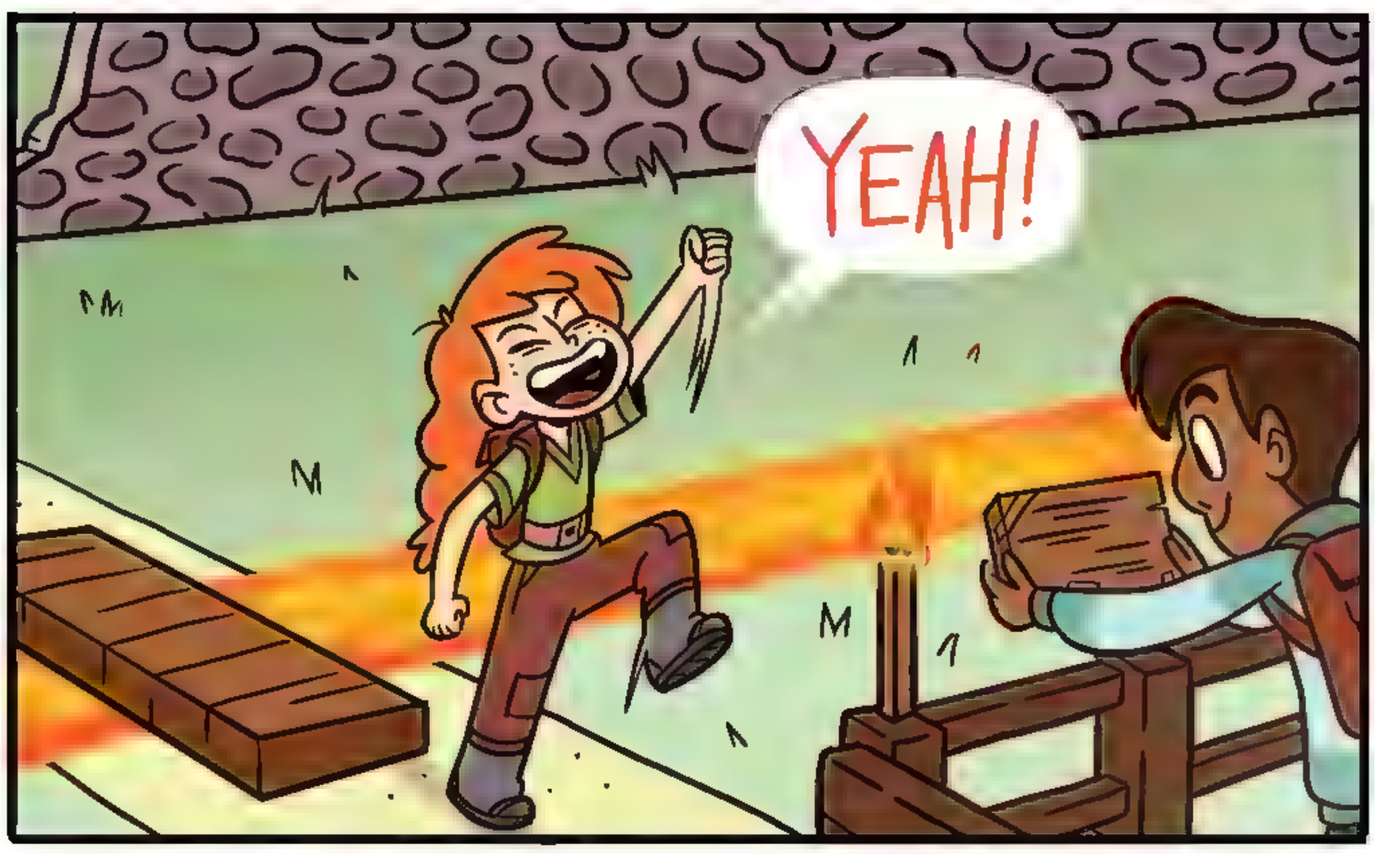
KABOOM

HECTOR, YOUR BASE! WHAT EXACTLY WERE YOU TRYING TO DO?

I FORGOT THE REASON MY PARENTS AND I LOVED THIS GAME.
TO PLAY TOGETHER AND HAVE FUN. MY MOM MADE THIS SIGN AS A REMINDER OF THAT.

SO I WANT TO OPEN THIS BASE SO WE CAN BUILD AND PLAY TOGETHER WITH EVERYBODY!

YOU AND ME? MORE ADVENTURES?
YEAH! IF YOU WANT TO, THAT IS...


YEAH!

TOGETHER WE CAN BUILD ANYTHING

MINECRAFT™ OPEN WORLD

INTO THE NETHER

CONCEPT ART BY

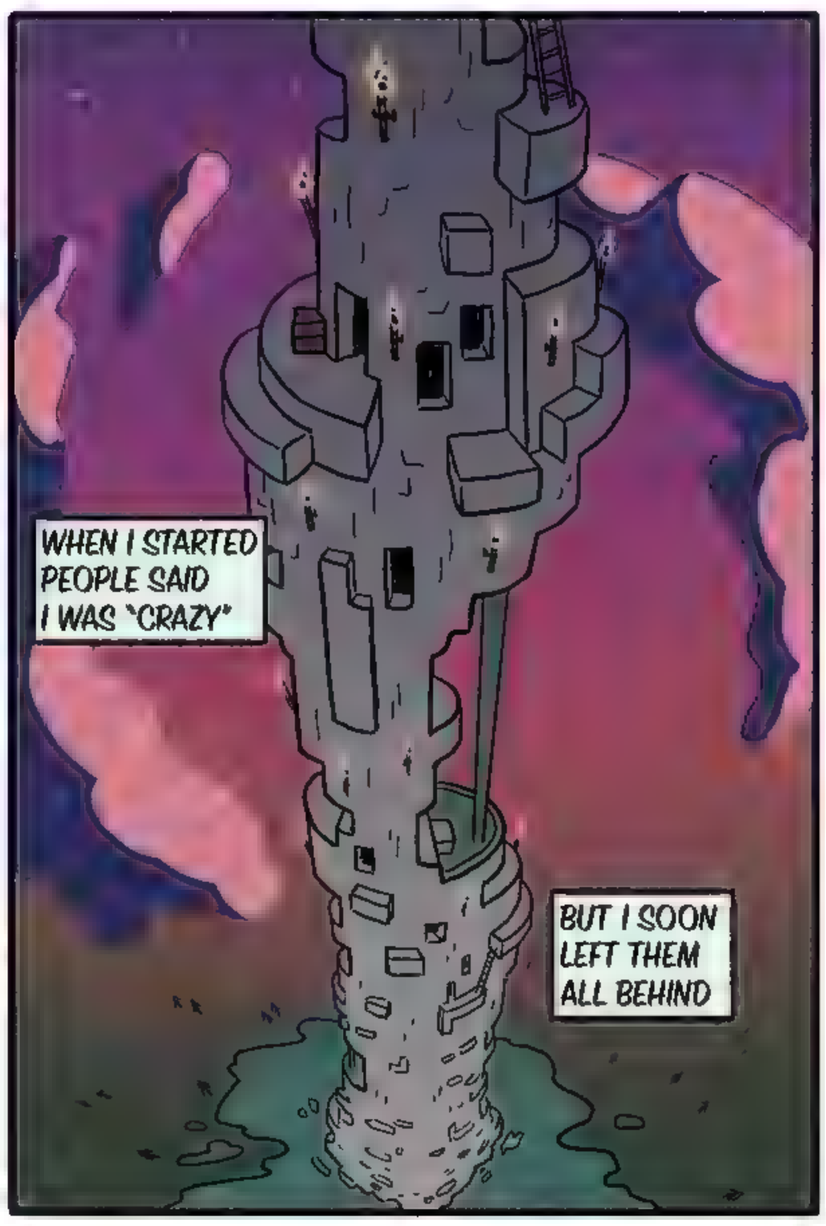
STEPHANIE RAMIREZ

CONCEPT ART

Initial character design sketches

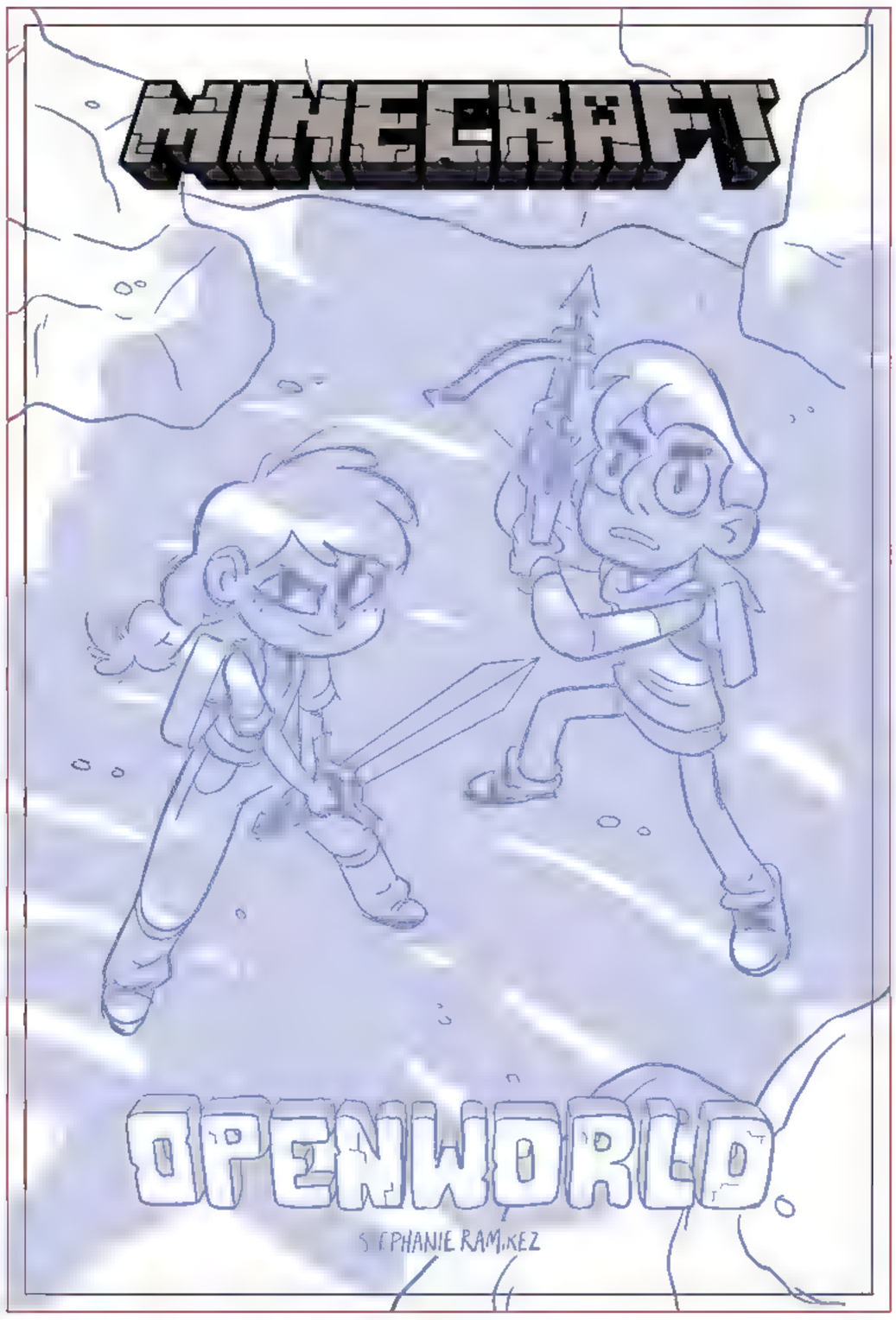
Color study and sketch of Hector and Sarah

SAMPLE PAGE



A colored sample page

COVER ART PROCESS



Cover sketch option 1

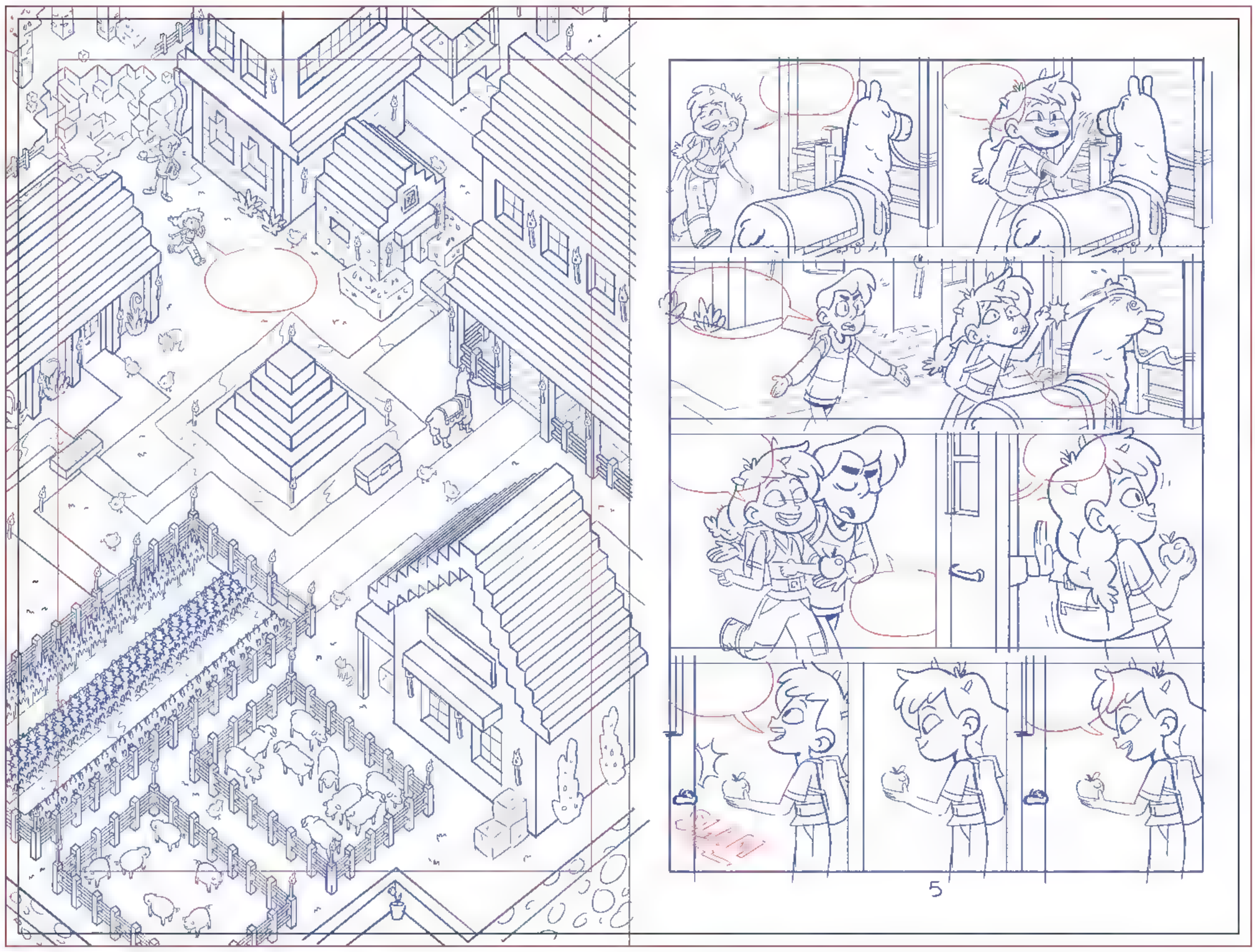
Cover sketch option 2

Cover inks

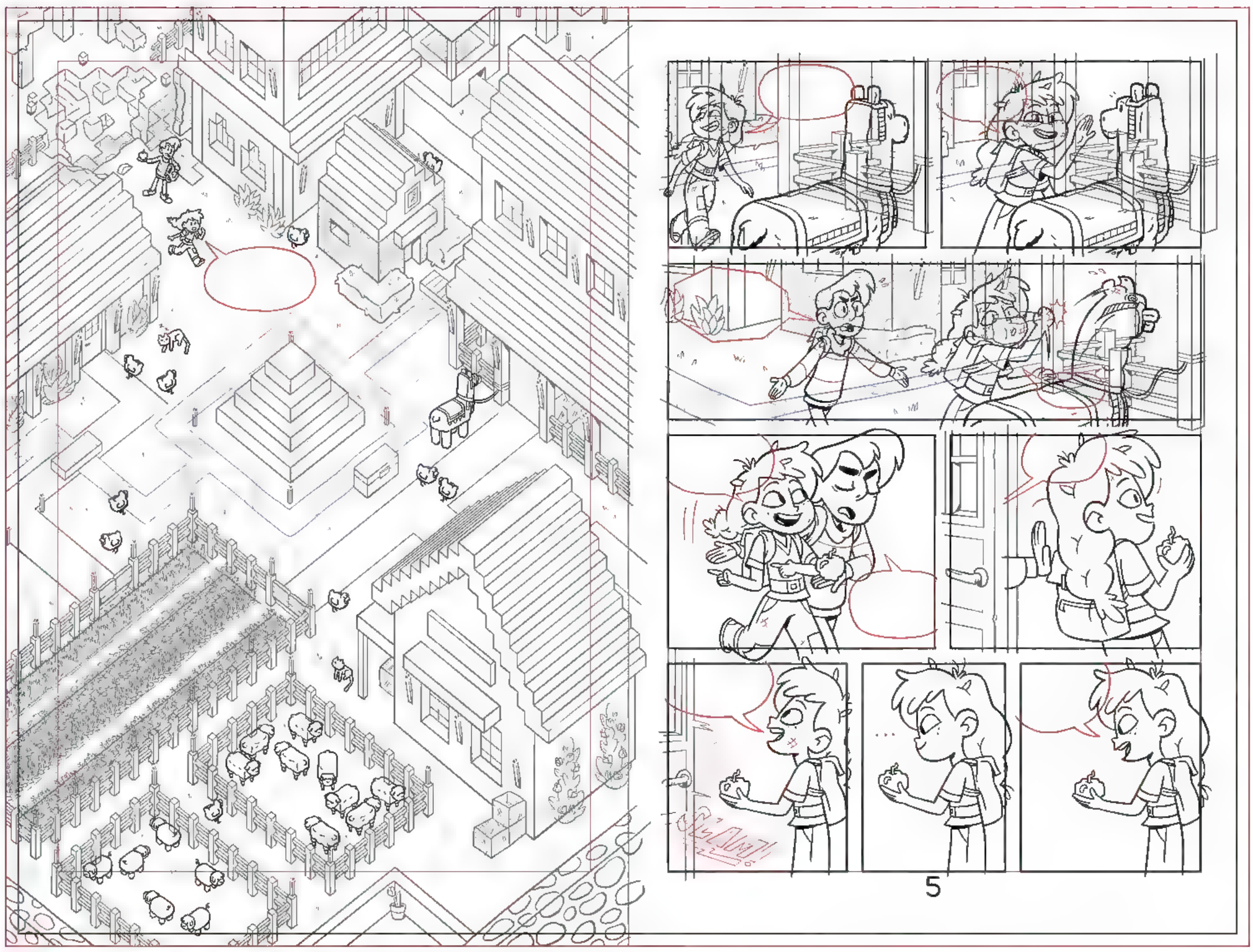
Cover colors

FINAL COVER ART

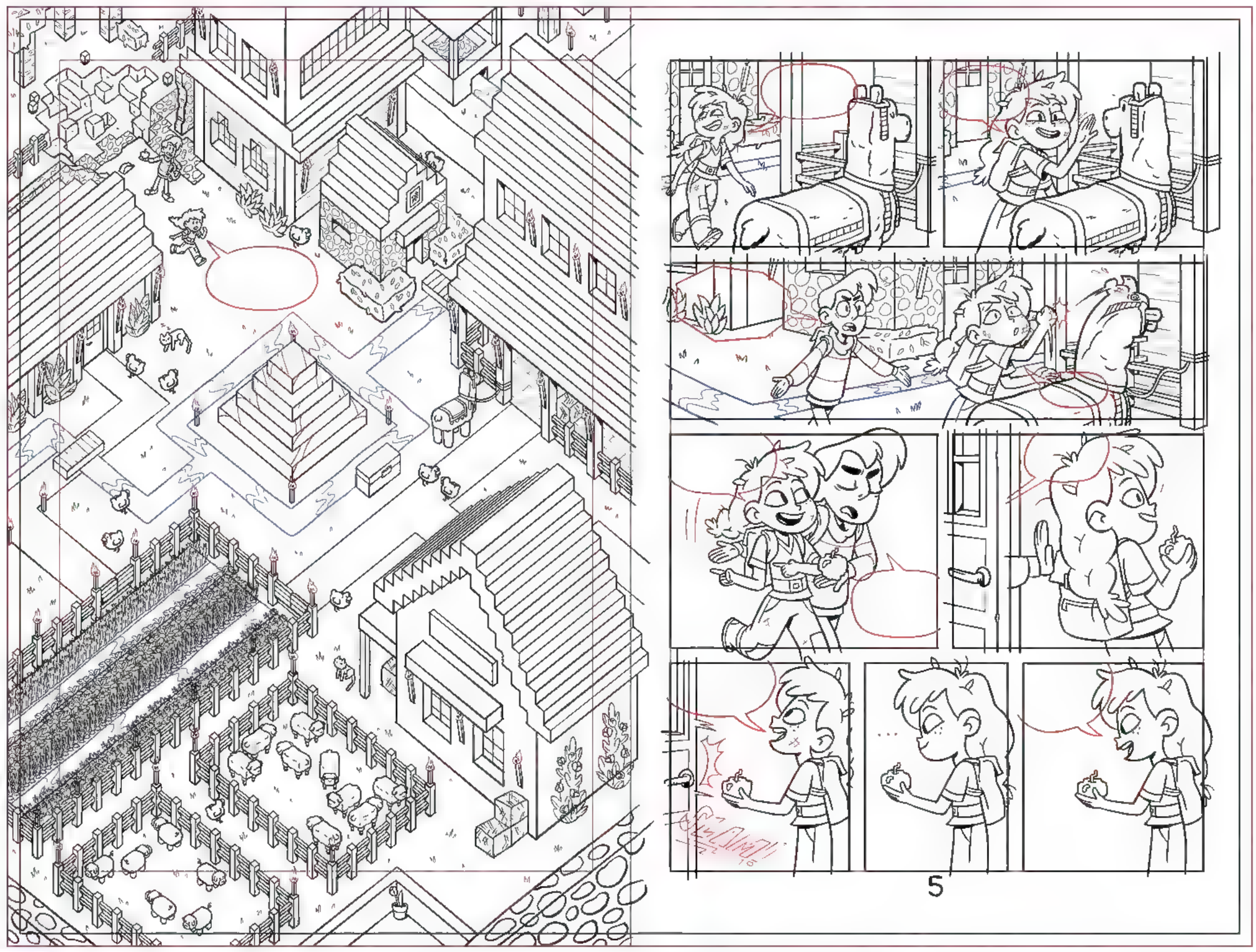
PAGE CREATION



Pencils for pages 04 and 05

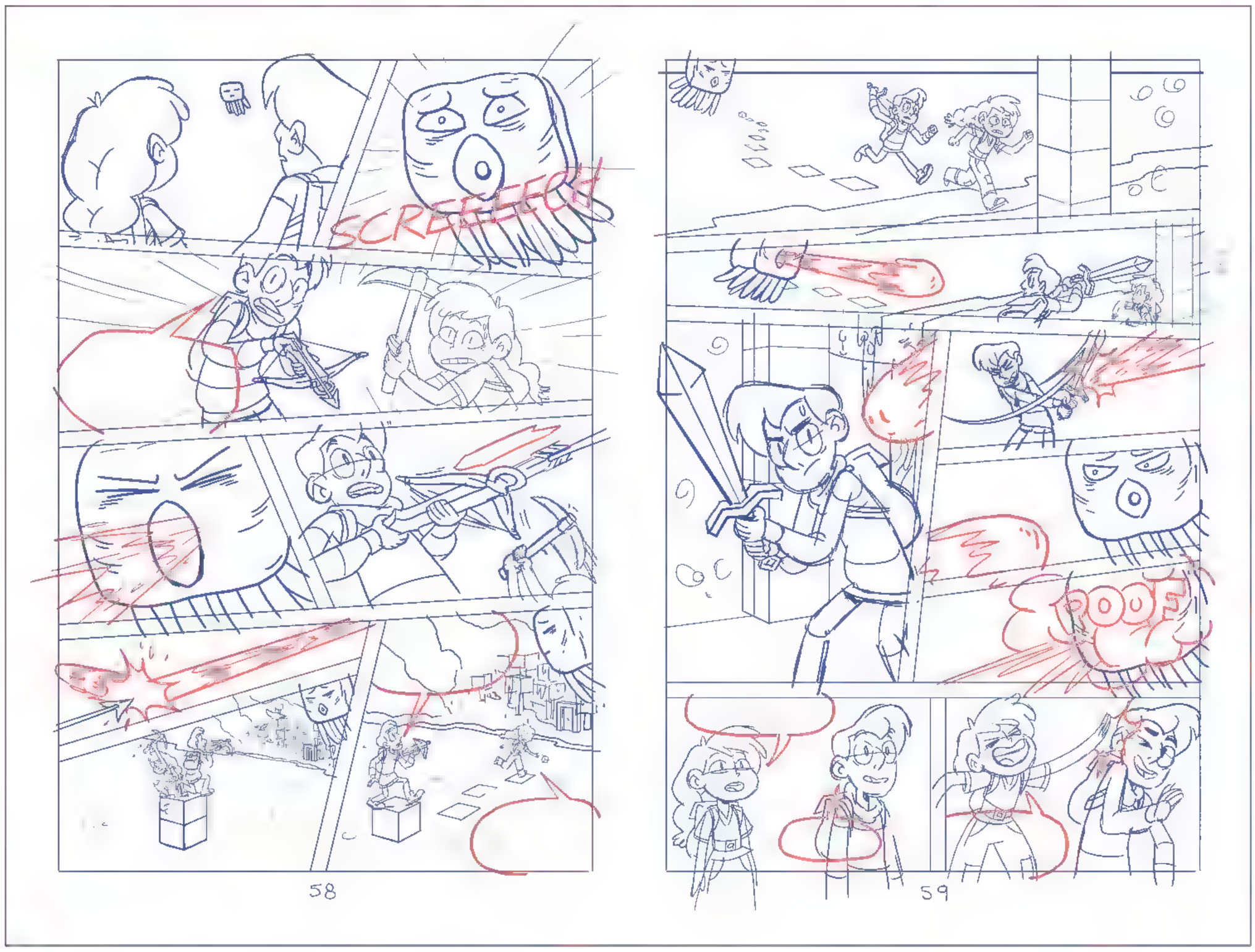


Inks for pages 04 and 05

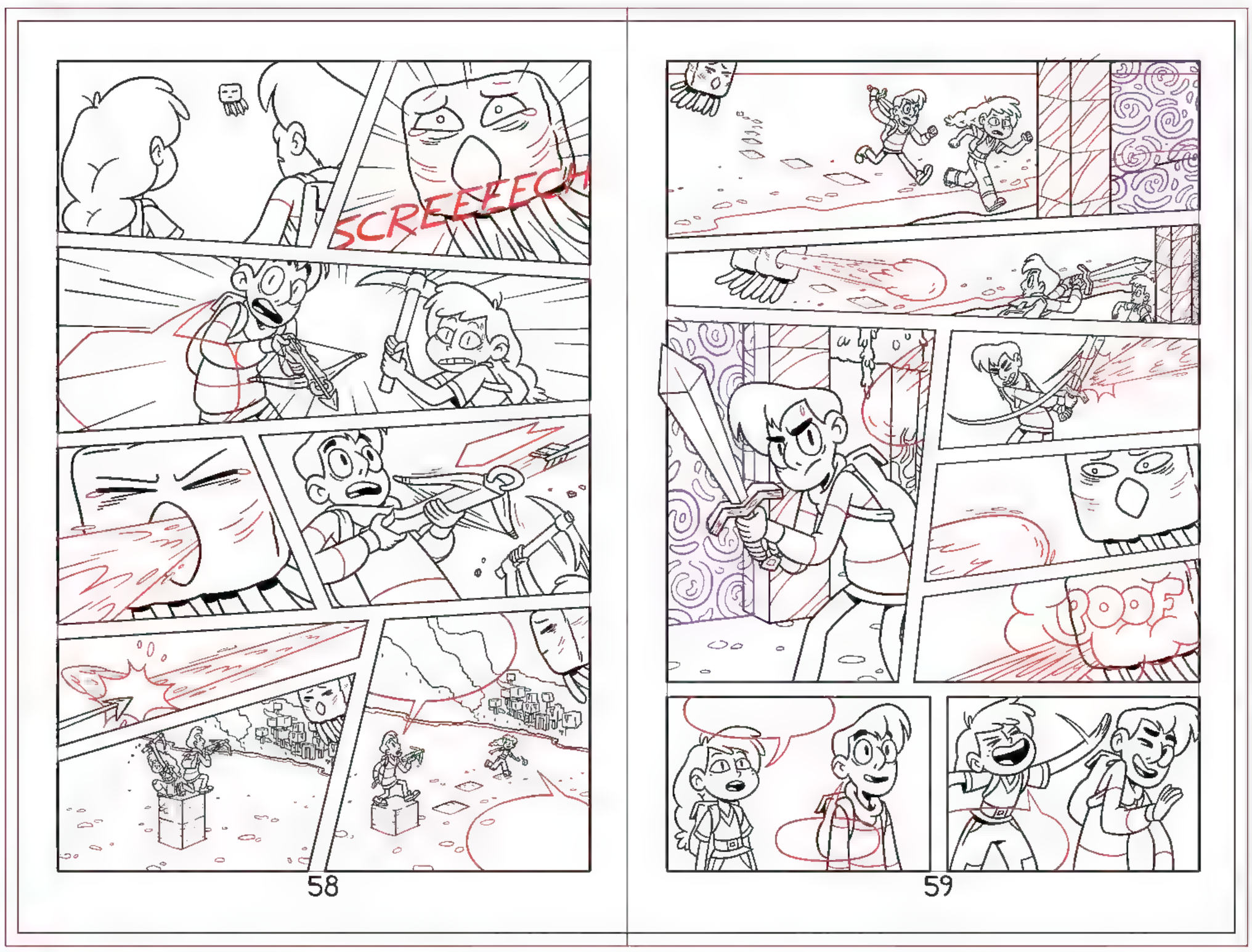


Revised inks for pages 04 and 05

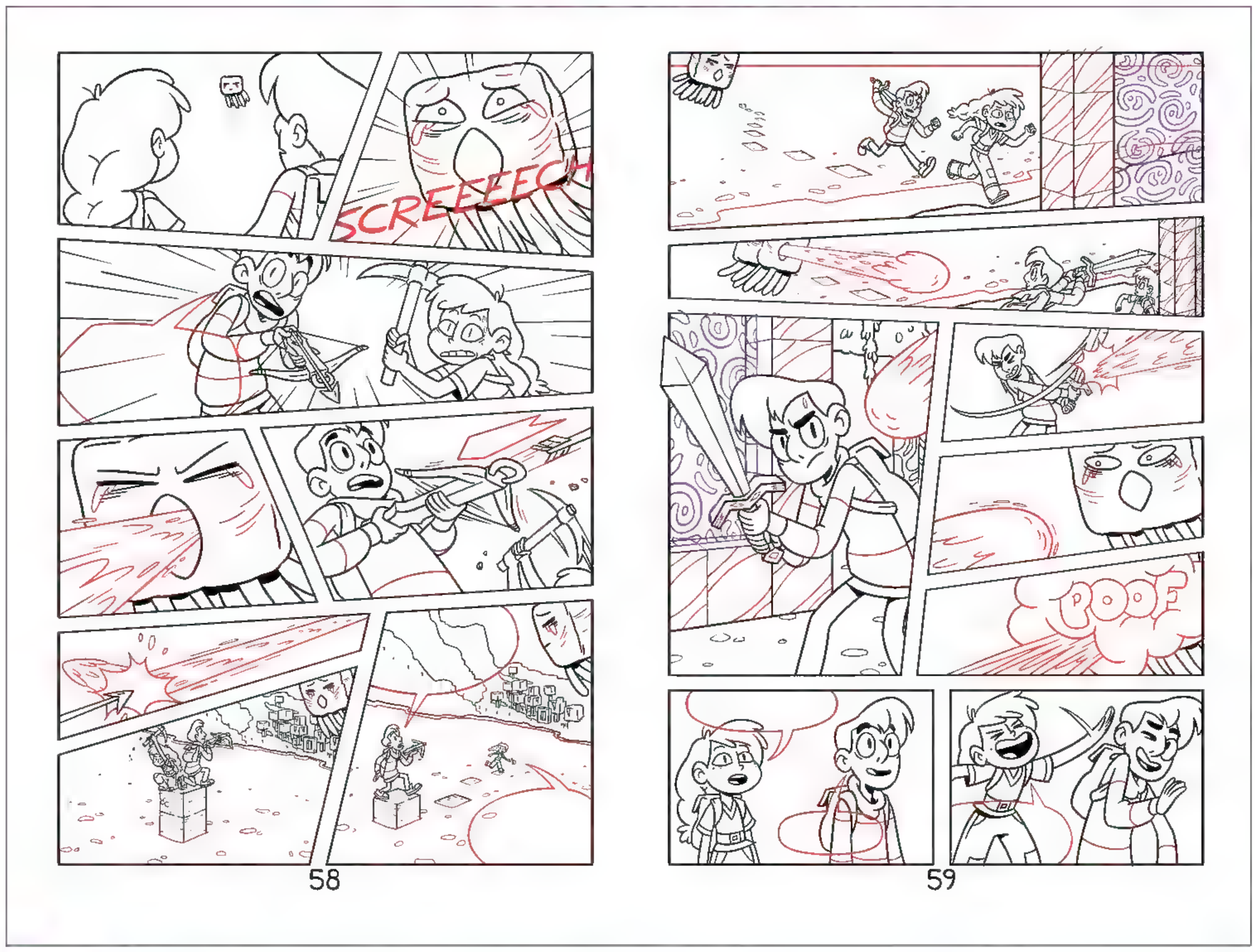
Completed art for Pages 04 and 05



Pencils for pages 58 and 59

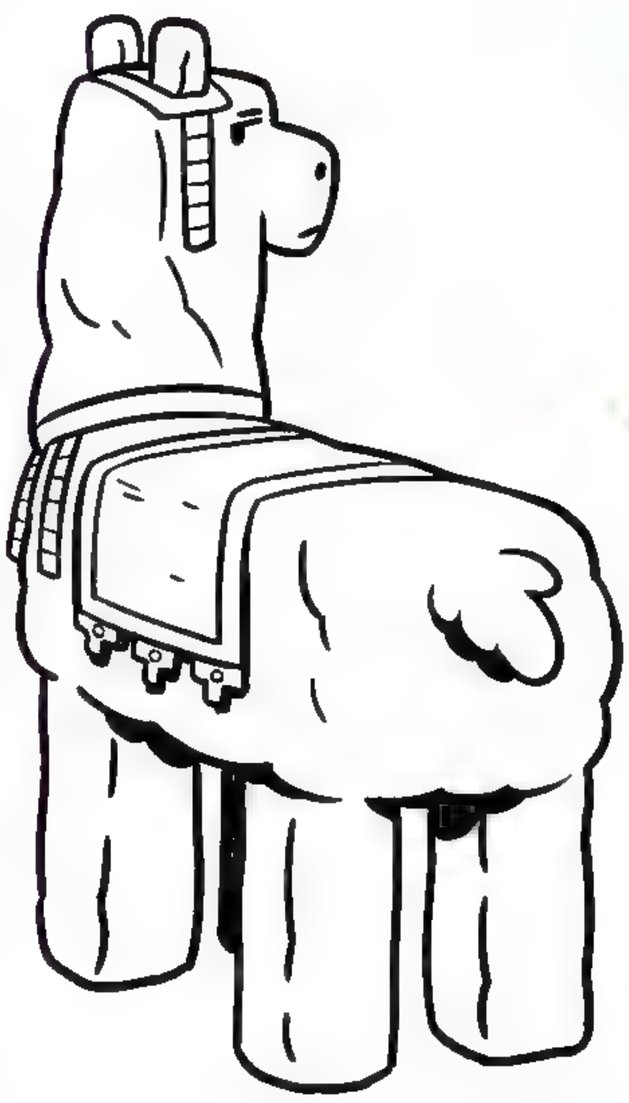


Inks for pages 58 and 59



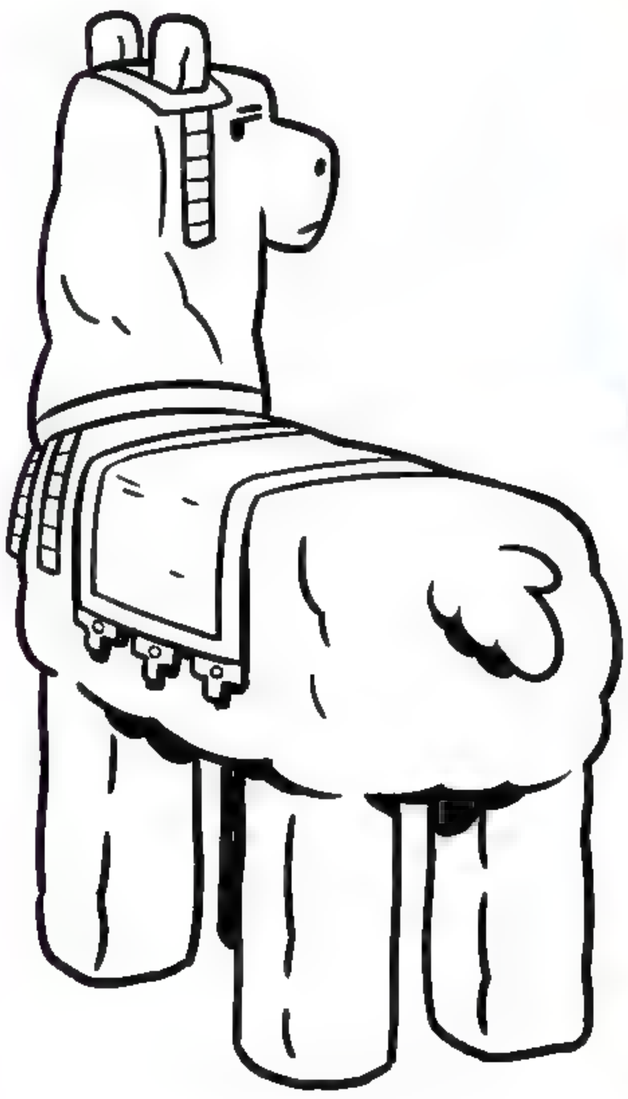
Revised inks for pages 58 and 59

Completed art for Pages 58 and 59



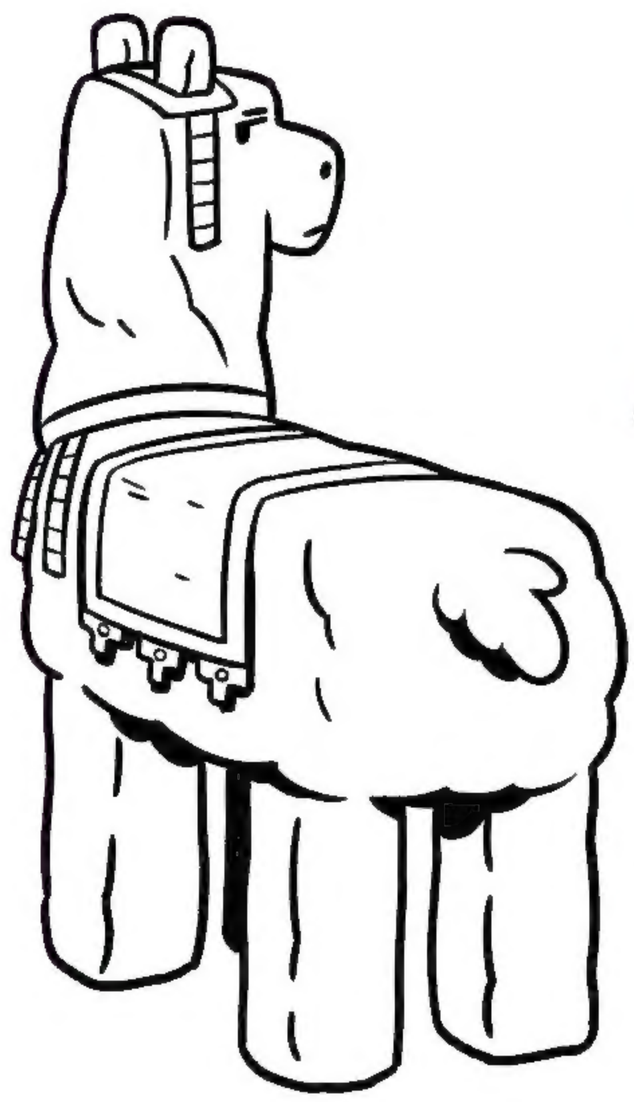
Various character concepts

THE



END

Various character concepts



Various character concepts

MINECRAFT™
OPEN WORLD
EXPLORE THE OVERWORLD AND BEYOND IN THIS NEW TALE FROM THE WORLD'S BEST-SELLING VIDEOGAME, MINECRAFT!
Sarah is new to the world of *Minecraft*, and her lack of experience leads her to look to veteran player Hector for help. Hector isn't used to exploring the Minecraft world with newbies, so he's cranky and reluctant at first. However, Sarah's enthusiasm and all-around energy bring Hector around, and the two become partners—but more importantly, friends!
Join Sarah and Hector on a brand-new adventure that takes them from the Overworld to the Nether, encountering numerous fan-favorite dangers and treasures all the way!
DARK HORSE BOOKS
MOJANG STUDIOS

SON OF ULTRON